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FIRST ROUND OF USSR-U.S. GENEVA TALKS SUMMED UP

By Shishkovskiy

OW241301 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1010 GMT 23 Apr 85

[From "The World Today" program presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy]

[Text] The delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States participating in the Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms are holding a plenary meeting today which, according to reports, will conclude the first round of this dialogue.

It is still difficult to sum up its results because the talks are confidential. Nevertheless, judging by commentaries of the Western press and some public statements by the U.S. representatives, the U.S. delegation did not demonstrate a desire or interest in constructively solving many questions on the agenda. This particularly concerns the problem of preventing the militarization of space.

As you know, in Washington they do not want to renounce the "star wars" program announced by President Reagan or the attempts to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union. This is precisely how the world's public assesses the negative reaction of the White House to the new Soviet peace proposals aimed at creating favorable conditions for a successful conduct of the Soviet-American dialogue.

The response of official Washington to the USSR proposal, which is irresponsible and fraught with dangerous consequences, the U.S. paper DAILY WORLD writes, shows that the Reagan administration still does not want serious talks or an end to the arms race. The Czechoslovak paper RUDE PRAVO also points this out in its commentary. Such a negative reaction to the Soviet initiatives, it writes, convinces us that the main thing for Reagan is to win time in order to deploy the largest number of U.S. missiles in Western Europe and undertake new steps aimed at preparing for "star wars."

This approach of the present U.S. Administration to solving major problems of the day evokes sharp protests in many countries. In the United States itself, mass demonstrations are continuing for the third day and their participants are resolutely condemning Washington's dangerous foreign policy course. This course is reflected not only in the U.S. approach to the Soviet-American dialogue in Geneva, it can also be seen in Washington's policy in the Middle East, southern Africa, and particularly clearly in Central America, where the United States has unleashed an undeclared war against Nicaragua.

By Zholkver

LD242326 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] As we have already reported, the first round of Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons has ended in Geneva. It has been agreed that the next round will start on 30 May. For an up-to-date news commentary here is our political observer Aleksandr Zholkver at the microphone:

[Zholkver] There is time to sum up the results of the first stage of the talks and to outline their future course; I remind you in this connection of what the subject and aims of the present talks are.

As was formulated in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement, published after Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko's January meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, the subject of the talks covers questions concerning space and nuclear armaments, and all these questions were to be examined and solved in their interrelationship. The aim of the talks has been declared as drawing up effective accords aimed at preventing an arms race in space and stopping the arms race on earth.

What was the position of both sides during the 1 and 1/2 months of the Geneva talks? Let us start from the fact that Washington is completely refusing to discuss the question of not spreading the arms race to space. What is more, at the very same time, tests of space-based weapons were carried out in the United States and the United States continued to build up its nuclear armaments. Exactly during the weeks that the talks took place in Geneva, Washington made decisions about producing a new batch of MX intercontinental missiles and continued deploying Pershings and cruise missiles in Western Europe, including now in Belgium as well. All this, of course, gives grounds to assume that Washington is not steering a course toward an accord with the Soviet Union. Certain circles in the United States are still hoping to achieve military superiority, but the Soviet Union has not set and is not setting itself such an aim. On the contrary, our country has also of late repeatedly confirmed its goodwill. Thus, we have proposed to introduce a moratorium on the creation of nuclear weapons and to freeze strategic nuclear arsenals for the entire period of the talks. Moreover, the USSR unilaterally declared a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles and on the buildup of other countermeasures in Europe.

Yes, the arms race and negotiations are incompatible. For its part, the Soviet Union, as Comrade Gorbachev noted in his report at the Central Committe plenum, will work persistently in Geneva for concrete, mutually acceptable agreements which would make it possible not only to end the arms race but also to advance the cause of disarmament.

L. PONOMAREV: NATO STICKING TO 1983 ARMS STANCE

LD242343 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1710 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Commentary by TASS observer Leonid Ponomarev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr (TASS) -- The U.S. Administration and its NATO allies have once again adopted a negative position in response to the latest Soviet initiatives in the field of nuclear arms limitation. Speaking on 23 April on behalf of the NATO Special Consultative Group on Questions of Nuclear Arms Control, its chairman Burt, the U.S. assistant state secretary for European and Canadian affairs, declared the Soviet position for reaching agreement on medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe "unacceptable." What is at issue here? In early April this year the Soviet Union put forward a proposal that since Soviet-American talks on arms reduction were being held in Geneva, it would be advisable to halt the buildup in armaments for at least the whole period of these talks. Both sides, the Soviet Union and the United States, would announce a moratorium on the creation of space weapons and freeze their strategic nuclear arsenals.

At the same time, the deployment of American medium-range missiles in Europe as well as the buildup of Soviet countermeasures should be halted. In pursuing this line, the Soviet Union had already unilaterally announced a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles and the buildup of other countermeasures in Europe.

It would seem that Washington would react to this constructive Soviet proposal with a similar positive step, but the aims of the U.S. Administration are obviously quite different. The customary "no" followed in reply to this Soviet initiative, and in order to camouflage their unseemly position, U.S. representatives have once again resorted to crude distortions of the real correlation of the nuclear means of the USSR and NATO in Europe, claiming that it is the Soviet Union which has an eight to one superiority in medium-range nuclear warheads. Such fantastic "calculations" by American politicians have been made before; they have simply not taken into account their own forward-based facilities in Europe, their allies' nuclear weapons, and so on. This approach by Washington to the evaluation of the correlation of forces shows that distortion of and juggling with the facts have become established practice and been elevated to the level of state policy. The facts are these: Over a number of years before the beginning of the deployment of the American Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe in December 1983, the number of the USSR's and NATO's medium-range nuclear means was approximately the same, about 1,000 on each side. By deploying its medium-range nuclear missiles on the territory of Western Europe, the U.S. Administration started to acutely infringe on the approximate balance of forces, which led to countermeasures by the Soviet Union.

Washington and its NATO allies are now deliberately complicating this issue in order to cover up their reluctance to halt the buildup of nuclear misssiles in Europe and reach an accord on a reduction in medium-range nuclear armaments in Europe. This question, as is known, is an integral part of the accord reached this January between the USSR and the United States to discuss in an interrelated way the prevention of the arms race in outer space, the reduction of strategic nuclear armaments, and the reduction of medium-range nuclear armaments.

Burt's statement shows that the United States and its NATO allies are not merely striving to wreck this accord but are sticking to their old positions which led in November 1983 to the break-off of the Geneva talks on nuclear arms limitation in Europe. This is precisely how one may assess the fact that Washington is resorting to imaginary figures on the numbers of Soviet missiles and warheads and is demanding what amounts to the USSR's unilateral disarmament in the face of a continuing buildup of American medium-range nuclear missiles. At the same time, U.S. representatives are again casting aside the basic principle of equality and equal security of the sides, which the Soviet Union will never renounce.

BLOC COOPERATION BANK MEETS IN MOSCOW 18-19 APR

PM231443 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Developing Cooperation"]

[Text] A routine session of the International Economic Cooperation Bank Council was held in Moscow 18-19 April.

Delegations from countries belonging to the bank's council and representatives of the CEMA Secretariat and the International Investment Bank, as well as representatives of a number of international and national banks invited by the International Economic Cooperation Bank Council as observers, took part in the council's work.

The council approved the bank's activity last year, which successfully promoted the development of mutual cooperation among member countries and their multifarious economic ties with other states. A report on the bank's activity in 1984, the balance as of 31 December 1984, and the bank's profits for 1984, as well as the International Economic Cooperation Bank's credit plan for the current year, were ratified.

The session proceeded in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and complete mutual understanding.

A joint session of the Councils of the International Economic Cooperation Bank and the International Investment Bank was held at which a report was delivered "On the 40th Anniversary of the Victory Over Fascism" by V.S. Alkhimov, chairman of the board of the USSR Gosbank.

The session participants noted the historic significance of the Soviet people's victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War and the contribution of other freedom-loving peoples to the rout of Hitlerite fascism. They expressed full support for the efforts of socialist countries' communist and workers parties in their struggle to ease international tension and ensure peace and social progress.

LINKUP OF SOVIET-U.S. TROOPS AT ELBE COMMEMORATED

Gorbachev Greets Participants

LD250842 Moscow TASS in English 0839 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Greetings by Mikhail Gorbachev to the Participants of the Meeting in Torgau" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS -- Follows the full text of the greetings by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the participants of the meeting in Torgau:

I send my whole-hearted greetings to all the participants who have assembled in Torgau to mark the memorable event -- the 40th anniversary of the meeting of the Soviet and American troops on the Elbe River.

So, years pass, decades go by but the names of those who -- at the cost of their lives -- dispelled the threat of enslavement and tyranny that hanged over mankind lives bright in the grateful memory of the people.

The veterans of the Great Patriotic War of the heroic battle against the forces of aggression and militarism -- stand high in the esteem of the entire people of our country. We bend our heads in reverence to the memory of those who perished in that battle. The present generation owes them the possibility to live calmly and to work in peace.

During these days, on the eve of the celebration of the great victory, the Soviet people also pay the tribute of respect to the weighty contribution that was made for the achievement of the common goal by the peoples and the Armed Forces of the United States, Great Britain, France, China and other states members of the anti-Hitlerite coalition. In bringing about that victory an important role was played by the Armed Forces units and the guerrilla armies and detachments of Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Hungary, the resistance movement in France, Italy, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Luxemburg. The German and Austrian patriots waged a courageous struggle against the Hitlerite nazism.

Our combat union that was born during the war years has demonstrated the potential of cooperation that is created by the joint work for peace and a better future for humanity. Similarly, the handshake of the Soviet and American soldiers who met in the spring of 1945 on the Elbe River has been forever recorded in history as the symbol of hope and friendship.

Today as well, the duty of all honest men, both young and veterans -- is to contribute to the best of their ability to the prevention of the fire of war from burning our earth.

Turning back to the events of the past war we think about the present and, of course, about the future: of the just and stable peace, of saving peoples from the nuclear threat.

Not hostility and discord, but mutual understanding and cooperation among countries and peoples should serve as the reference-point for mankind. The Soviet people are convinced that constructive cooperation between the former allies, among all states in the activity aimed at safeguarding peace can and should become a powerful factor in the improvement of the international climate.

Those who today again join their hands over the Elbe River give a good example of that.

From the bottom of my heart I wish the heroic veterans, the warriors who fought against the Hitlerite fascism, their families and all the participants of the meeting in Torgau the best of health and many years of happy and peaceful life.

Foreign Ministry Press Conference

LD250947 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 25 Apr 85

["Thinking About the Future" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS -- TASS correspondent reports from the Press Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR:

Greeting Soviet and American war veterans, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed: "Not hostility and discord but mutual understanding and cooperation among countries and peoples should serve as a reference-point for mankind."

The text of the message of greetings from the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to the war veterans who decided to mark in Torgau the 40th anniversary of the linkup of the Soviet and American troops on the Elbe was today read at a press conference in Moscow. "The Soviet people are convinced that constructive cooperation between the former allies, among all states in the activity aimed at safeguarding peace can and should become a powerful factor in the improvement of the international climate. Those who today again join their hands over the Elbe River give a good example of that."

Speakers at the press conference pointed out that the handshake of Soviet and American soldiers on the Elbe in the spring of 1945 had gone down forever in history as a symbol of hope and friendship.

Vladimir Lomeyko, Press Department chief of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said in his answers to questions from journalists that the basis for the constructive cooperation between the former Allies, about which Mikhail Gorbachev spoke in his message of greetings to participants in the Torgau reunion, should be their awareness of their common historical responsibility for the destinies of peace in the face of the threat posed to them. That threat was presented by the arms race and by the unending danger of another, nuclear war. This joint awareness of common historical responsibility was displayed by the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition during the Second World War. This awareness constitutes the potential of cooperation today.

The Soviet Union demonstrated by actions its readiness to go its part of the road, Vladimir Lomeyko said, recalling the concrete peace initiatives of the Soviet Union formulated by Mikhail Gorbachev in his proposals.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR strongly rejected the attempts of certain circles in the West to draw parallels in their appraisals of the results of the Second World War between Hitler fascism and the German nation. We were fighting German fascism but not the German people. We established relations of friendship with the GDR and normalised our relations with West Germany by concluding with it the Moscow Treaty. Today we are marking the 40th anniversary of the rout of Hitler fascism.

This anniversary is marked in the Soviet Union, Vladimir Lomeyko continued, as a holiday of the long-awaited victory won in hard-fought battles against the Nazi aggressors and as day of mourning over 20 million compatriots and millions of people in other countries who laid down their lives for freedom.

The Soviet people, addressing their thoughts to the 40th anniversary of victory, Vladimir Lomeyko stressed, are thinking about the present and the future. They are thinking primarily that the nuclear threat is a common danger to the whole of mankind, to the fate of civilization. Cooperation among all states is needed to safeguard peace, the common asset of all the peoples.

PRAVDA Anniversary Article

PM231527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[M. Antyasov article: "Guidelines for Peace and Cooperation"]

[Text] Time is a strict, fair judge. Over the years, some events become overshadowed, so to speak, while others are illuminated and gain new resonance. The events of World War II live on in people's memories, together with their grief and troubles, their courage, and the emotions of victory.

It was 40 years ago, on 25 April 1945, that the Soviet and American Armies met in central Europe, advancing from east and west, storming the last bastions of Hitler's reich. Apart from its military significance, this event lives on as a kind of symbol of the anti-Hitlerite coalition, of the unity of countries with different social systems that had entered into a joint struggle against a common danger.

Again and again not only historians, but also politicians turn to the documents which enshrined this unity, above all the documents of Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam -- the greatest milestones in the annals of the anti-Hitlerite coalition. Of course, much in these documents is devoted to the immediate tasks of the war against Nazi Germany and militarist Japan. However, ideas oriented toward the decades to come run right through various sections of the documents.

First and foremost, this means concern for mankind's future. The Tehran declaration, for instance, speaks of the implementation of a peace that "will eliminate the troubles and horrors of war for many generations." The need to realize "mankind's supreme desire, stable and lasting peace," is noted in the Crimea conference communique, too.

These were not just abstract appeals. The Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam documents sketch the main outlines of the Allied Powers' joint policy, which was to ensure peace for the world. First and foremost, there was the total elimination of Nazi institutions and laws and the destruction of the last vestiges of fascism and nazism in Europe, of the very "spirit of nazism" as the bringer of the threat of war. That spirit is, of course, a broader phenomenon than that form of fascism routed during World War II. Indeed, the spirit of fascism has many faces; it can appear not only in a brown shirt with a swastika on the sleeve, but in other costumes, too.

In order to deliver the peoples from the threat of a new war in Europe and lay firm foundations for European security, the decisions of the Allies' conferences, especially the Potsdam conference, stipulated the main provisions for the postwar peace settlement. These form the immutable basis of European peace to this day. Are they not still relevant, now that some people in the West are trying to kindle revanchist sentiments?

In close conjunction with averting the danger of war, the documents of the Allied Powers' conferences speak of the need to "eliminate tyranny, slavery, and oppression." In essence, this verdict was pronounced not only on the fascist regimes of Germany and Italy, but on the colonial system, apartheid and racism, and dictatorial regimes of any kind. If this verdict had been consistently put into practice, mankind would have been spared many of the "dirty" wars that were to cost many lives over the next 40 years, and are still doing so.

The declaration on the liberation of Europe adopted in Yalta is a provision stipulating that the establishment of order in Europe can only be achieved in a way which enables the peoples to "create democratic institutions according to their own choice" and which proclaims "the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live." This provision is highly revelant in our time, too, in the light of the continuing attempts by certain circles in the West to dispute this right in relation to the socialist countries and a whole series of other states in Asia, Africa, and Latin America!

In their declarations, the allies pointed to the need for unity of action in the future as an essential condition of ensuring a lasting and stable postwar peace. This idea permeates the basic documents of all three conferences. It was later reflected in the UN Charter, which enshrined the principle of unanimity of the permanent members of the Security Council.

The idea of unity of action in the interests of peace and international cooperation was also examined in the wider plane at the conferences of the anti-Hitlerite coalition countries. Thus the Tehran conference declaration noted the desire for cooperation and active participation in international life by all countries, large and small. The subject of close, permanent cooperation among all peace-loving peoples was also singled out at Yalta.

Of course, these provisions were the result of stubborn, often bitter political debates. Nonetheless, their adoption proved possible thanks to the logic of the joint struggle against a common mortal enemy; this logic dictated the laws of unity of action and demanded that provisions that meet the peoples' democratic aspirations be set against the postulates of the fascist ideology. The consistent diplomatic line and prestige of the Soviet Union, the leading force in the anti-Hitlerite coalition, had their effect. The farsightedness of U.S. President F. Roosevelt, who died only a matter of days before the joint victory, also played its part.

It was not the Soviet Union's fault that history took a different path from that outlined in the Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam documents. The creation of the aggressive NATO bloc, the remilitarization of the FRG, and the nuclear arms race went against what was agreed upon by the leaders of the anti-Hitlerite coalition countries. But even in the moments of greatest tension, these accords remained a kind of beacon, at least in the sense that they indicated the possibility of a different, constructive approach to international affairs: not disunity leading to a new world war, but unity for the sake of peace; not confrontation, but peaceful cooperation.

These guidelines again played their part when, a quarter of a century later, the concept of "relaxation of international tension" entered world politics. It entered, put down roots, and began to become the very fabric of international cooperation. That was when documents were adopted and signed that basically continued the line outlined at Yalta, Tehran, and Potsdam, developing it for the new conditions, the conditions of the nuclear age.

Let us recall some of the most important of these documents. There are the principles of relations between the USSR and the United States, signed in the course of the 1972 summit meeting, which express the common conviction that in the nuclear age, the only basis for maintaining relations between our two countries is peaceful coexistence. "The differences in ideology and social systems in the USSR and the United States," the document says, "are no obstacle to the development of normal relations between them, based on the principles of sovereignty, equality, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual advantage." It is also proclaimed that the USSR and the United States "do not themselves lay claim and do not recognize anyone's claims to any special rights or advantages in world affairs. They acknowledge the sovereign equality of all states."

In 1973, an agreement was signed between the USSR and the United States on preventing nuclear war, in accordance with which the objective of the two countries' policy must be the elimination of the danger of such a war or of the use of nuclear weapons. The agreement established a procedure for urgent consultations to avoid that danger.

Both of these agreements were backed up by concrete accords in the arms limitation sphere. Simultaneously with the signing of the document on the principles of relations between the USSR and the United States, the unlimited-duration Treaty on the Limitation of Antiballistic Missile Systems, and the Interim Agreement on Certain Measures With Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms were signed.

It was no accident that M.S. Gorbachev, in his recent conversation with the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, noted the significance of these fundamental documents which laid the foundations for fruitful cooperation between the USSR and the United States in various spheres.

Of course, detente was not confined to Soviet-American relations alone. As is known, during the same period, the 1970 Moscow Treaty between the USSR and the GDR, the 1970 treaty between Poland and the FRG, the 1971 four-power agreement on West Berlin between the USSR, the United States, Britain, and France, the 1972 treaty on the principles of relations between the GDR and the FRG, and the 1973 treaty between Czechoslovakia and the FRG were concluded. Taken together, they consolidated the postwar realities in Europe.

The high point of detente was the Helsinki Final Act, which opened the way to a peaceful future for Europe, and not only Europe.

The Soviet Union continues to advocate acting in the spirit of the commitments taken on together with the Western countries in wartime and in the latest decade. The USSR is ready to take part in the continuation of the process of establishing peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation between states on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs. New steps in this direction, it was stated at the CPSU Central Committee March Plenum, could be taken by fittingly marking the 40th anniversary of the great victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism.

Many politicians in the West, including the United States, are now insisting on the need to interpret the lessons of the past. Republican Senator Mathias, who together with another senator, Matsunaga, a Democrat, submitted a recommendation to the U.S. President to mark the historic meeting on the Elbe, writes in THE WASHINGTON POST: "It is not only a question of history. Our future depends to some degree on sincerity in relation to the past. Remembering that we once fought hand in hand, the Americans and the Russians could erect new barriers against a face-to-face clash."

Unfortunately a different kind of political thought prevails in official Washington. The suppression of the topic of fascism's crimes in World War II on the false pretext of "mercy" is accompanied by new attacks of anti-Sovietism there.

Pushing through Congress the next batch of MX missiles, which are essentially designed as first-strike weapons; forming the "star wars" program -- that, by all appearances, is how people across the ocean intend to greet the 40th anniversary of the end of the war and the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act under which the two countries, like the other countries that took part in the CSCE, pledge to act for the sake of peace. At the same time, at this crucial moment, when mankind faces the task of ending the arms race, above all the nuclear arms race, on earth and preventing an arms race in space, it is particularly useful to turn to the guidelines indicating the path to a stable and lasting peace.

'INTERNATIONAL REVIEW' ON GENEVA, NICARAGUA

PM241242 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[Boris Orekhov "International Review"]

[Text] Spring has been late to arrive in our country. The winter chills are retreating slowly and unwillingly. Spring is in no hurry to arrive in international relations, either. An unsettled and at times simply dangerous situation prevails in the world. Alarming news reports continue to come from Central America, the Near East, and other "hot spots." This is why today there is a more acute need than ever before for international cooperation in the establishment of dialogue and in the quest for solutions that will ease tension in the world and help block the path of the arms race.

Measuring Ourselves Against Lenin

The day of working people's international solidarity -- 1 May -- is approaching. The words of the CPSU Central Committee slogan, addressed to peoples of all countries, to step up the struggle to eliminate the threat of a nuclear world war, prevent an arms race in space, and halt it on earth, have resounded particularly forcefully over the planet in these days before May Day.

There is nothing more precious to our people than peace, and Soviet working people's thoughts are focused on preserving and strengthening peace. Yesterday, they marched beneath peace-loving slogans on the traditional Lenin subbotnik to mark the 115th anniversary of the birth of the great leader of the world proletariat with a major contribution to the country's peaceful economy. The Soviet people reverently honor the leader's memory. The Great October Socialist Revolution is linked with the leader's name. The creation and establishment of the world's first socialist state of workers and peasants is linked with his name. The peace-loving foreign policy of the Land of the Soviets is also linked with his name.

V.I. Lenin was able to lead our country's foreign policy for only a few years, but his experience and his ideas are of abiding significance. Lenin's pen is responsible for hundreds of documents, from the first foreign policy document of the Soviet state -- the decree on peace -- to directives to international conferences in which Soviet representatives participated, and memoranda and instructions to ambassadors.

V.I. Lenin attached paramount importance to the consistent application of class criteria evaluating various phenomena in international life and solving practical questions concerning the Soviet state's foreign policy activity. He always managed to reveal the class core of any international question, no matter how deeply it may have been concealed. In their foreign policy activity, our party and government enjoy the benefit of the invaluable gift handed down to us by V.I. Lenin -- how to learn lessons from the past, take the right direction in the present, and perceive the future in its scientifically substantiated revolutionary aspect.

The profoundly progressive role of Soviet foreign policy as an active and effective factor for peaceful development has been and continues to be displayed in the solution of its main task -- to ensure the most favorable conditions for the building of socialism and communism in our country. V.I. Lenin also perceived this as the supreme duty of the Land of the Soviets to the world revolutionary movement.

The Soviet Union acts as a component of the socialist community, and the main direction of Soviet foreign policy consists of concern for the comprehensive strengthening of the positions of world socialism, development of all-around cooperation with the fraternal countries, and consolidation of their unity and cohesion.

A memorable date in the history of the world socialist community is approaching -- the 30th anniversary of the signing of the collective alliance treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance known as the Warsaw Pact.

It would not be amiss today to recall how the situation in Europe and beyond it had developed when that document was signed in Warsaw. It was the period of the "cold war" foisted on us by the most aggressive forces of imperialism. The policy of the main Western powers was to whip up tension instead of easing it. By then, the NATO bloc had existed and had been building up its military preparations for several years. More and more new military bases were being established around the socialist community countries. Under these circumstances, Europe's fraternal socialist countries decided to create their own truly defensive alliance. In this, they recalled V.I. Lenin's words: "...Faced with the vast front of imperialist powers, we fighters against imperialism constitute an alliance that requires close military cohesion, and we perceive any attempt to break this cohesion as a totally impermissible phenomenon...."

The collective alliance treaty was concluded by Europe's socialist states in order to "protect the peaceful labor of their peoples, guaranted the integrity of their borders and territories, and ensure defense against potential aggression." For 3 decades now the Warsaw Pact has been fittingly and effectively performing its main function of protecting the positions and interests of the socialist community and its security.

A few days ago, the press published the "Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and the Hungarian People's Republic in the Period Through the Year 2000," which was signed in Moscow. I will undoubtedly make an effective contribution to the further strengthening and deepening of economic, scientific, and technical relations between our two countries.

A festival of Soviet culture is being held in the Polish People's Republic.

A month of Soviet-Bulgarian friendship has just started in Bulgaria.

Good news is currently coming in from the socialist countries. The fraternal countries are welcoming May Day and the great holiday of victory by scaling new heights in peaceful labor and by actively implementing the Leninist policy of peace and peoples' friendship.

Forty Years Later

"The hour of Europe's total liberation from Hitlerism is near. No matter how strongly the mortally wounded fascist beast may resist, it is doomed and will be dealt the final blow. The Soviet people will fully accomplish their great liberation mission." These lines are from PRAVDA's editorial of 21 April 1945. Next to it, on the newspaper's front page, a Soviet Informburo operations report announced that Soviet troops were engaged in combat west of the Oder and Neisse Rivers and north of Vienna.

It is difficult to remain unemotional when leafing through the yellowed newspaper pages of those majestic and memorable days, the days of the last salvos and our last sacrifices. The world, saved by Soviet servicemen, remembers that spring and bows its head before the bright memory of those who fell for mankind's liberation from the brown plaque. In the days when the 40th anniversary of victory is approaching, people perceive with particular urgency the need to safeguard peace, which has become so fragile in our nuclear age.

The world welcomed with satisfaction the news that the UN General Assembly has decided to mark 1985 as UN Year and 1986 as International Peace Year. The USSR foreign minister's letter to the UN secretary general says that this decision acquires particular significance in connection with the celebration by the world's peoples of the 40th anniversary of the historic victory over fascism, which created conditions for the formation of the United Nations, whose purpose is to strive for the liberation of future generations from the calamities of war.

There are a growing number of people in the world who are concerned at the dangerous development of the international situation and are proposing their own ways and means to improve and normalize it.

There are quite a few such people in the United States. G.R. La Rocque and Eugene Carroll are leaders of the "Defense Information Center," an organization well known in the United States. In their letter to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, they proposed that a moratorium be proclaimed on all nuclear weapons tests as of 6 August 1985, the 40th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima.

It is well known that the Soviet Union has repeatedly put to the United States and the other nuclear powers a proposal to put an end to all nuclear weapons tests. It has also proposed that a moratorium be proclaimed on all nuclear explosions starting on a mutually agreed date. Our country agrees that 6 August 1985 could be the starting date of the moratorium, as proposed in the La Rocque-Carroll letter. However, in the Soviet Union's opinion, it may be possible -- given a positive attitude by the other nuclear powers -- to proclaim such a moratorium earlier and have it remain in force until the conclusion of a treaty on a total and general ban on nuclear weapons tests. The reply to the letter's writers also confirms our country's readiness for the immediate resumption of the talks on the total banning of nuclear weapons tests and contains a proposal to validate the 1974 and 1976 Soviet-U.S. treaties on the limitation of underground tests of nuclear weapons and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, these treaties are still not ratified, for which the Soviet side is not to blame.

Concerned over the recent deterioration of the international situation, people are looking hopefully to Geneva, where the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons are in progress. It was announced there that the first round of talks will end the day after tomorrow.

Our country entered the new Soviet-U.S. talks guided by a sense of lofty responsibility to its own people and other peoples for the cause of peace on earth and fully resolved to conduct talks seriously and honestly in order to achieve real and specific results.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said of our partners in the talks. After all, had there been a sincere desire by the U.S. leadership to agree to the reduction of nuclear arms -- and I repeat, a sincere desire instead of countless demagogical declarations of its love for peace, unsubstantiated by practical deeds -- all the U.S. side would have to do is simply grasp the proposals and actions of the USSR, which has proclaimed that it is unilaterally halting until November of this year the further deployment of its own medium-range missiles and is suspending the implementation of other countermeasures in Europe. Instead, in a display of incomprehensible and suspicious haste, the U.S. Administration has straight away proclaimed that the important and constructive Soviet gesture of goodwill is a "propaganda step." This single fact alone is capable of raising the most serious doubts about the U.S. side's sincerity at the Geneva talks, for it is impossible to achieve progress in the cause of disarmament, the cause of improving relations between our countries, without sincerity, without the presence of political will.

Question: Does such will exist in the incumbent U.S. leadership.

Facts indicate that the wishes and aspirations of millions of people today are fundamentally different from the actions of the Washington administration. James Garfield, a former U.S. president, said: "The President of the United States is the last in the world to learn what the people really wish and what they think." It seems as if this sentence, spoken a long time ago, has not lost any of its topicality in our time. Quite the contrary. Is this not indicated by the feverish haste with which the multibillion dollar "star wars" program is acquiring flesh and blood?

All the bourgeois mass news media in the United States are today engaged in propagandizing it. Mercenary scribblers are vying with one another in attempts to prove that the implementation of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" will bring benefits to the U.S. economy and progress to U.S. science and technology. Furthermore, as it is usual in such cases, they are not too fastidious about juggling and falsifying facts. How can we fail to recall at this point A. Briand, one of the figures in the League of Nations of sad memory, who, despite all his political conservatism, remarked sarcastically back in 1930: "The pens that write articles against disarmament are made from the same steel as guns." Today we can only substitute the word "missiles" for "guns."

Taking the Bit Between the Teeth

The latest stage of the joint U.S.-Honduran maneuvers codenamed "Big Pine III" has ended. The largest maneuvers in Central American history, they began on 11 February, lasted 2 whole months, and had an openly provocative anti-Nicaraguan character.

The press in Latin American countries described "Big Pine III" as a rehearsal for direct intervention in Nicaragua. The maneuvers have exacerbated to the utmost the already tense situation in Central America, showing that the United States will stop at nothing in its actions aimed at subverting the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua and interfering in the internal affairs of that sovereign state.

Gangs of "contras" -- armed mercenaries sowing death and terror in the country's border regions -- are being sent one after the other into Nicaraguan territory. Military bases have been and are being established on the territory of countries bordering Nicaragua. We are talking about states ruled by regimes obedient to the United States. The U.S. Administration is "twisting the arm" of congressmen, forcing them to vote for the appropriation of an additional 14 million in aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. Speaking at a 15 April dinner given by the "Nicaraguan Refugee Aid Foundation" organization, the White House boss exclaimed: "A vote against this proposal would be literally a vote against peace." This is how far the U.S. President has gone, and it has become usual for him to confuse revolution with counterrevolution, peace with war, and the SS men buried in West Germany's Bitburg with the soldiers and officers of the Allied Powers who fell in the struggle against the brown plague, with the victims of fascist concentration camps.

Relying on force, and having taken the bit between its teeth, Washington is leading matters toward the further exacerbation of the situation in the Central American region. No sooner had the soldiers taking part in the "Big Pine III" maneuvers boarded their sea transport on their way home than new joint U.S.-Honduran maneuvers, this time under the new code name "Universal Trek-85," started in Honduras in the immediate vicinity of the border with Nicaragua. The provocations continue.

TASS ANALYST SEREBRENNIKOV MARKS UN ANNIVERSARY

LD242324 Moscow TASS in English 1931 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Robert Serebrennikov writes:

A conference with the participation of representatives of 50 states with different social systems and different ideologies opened in San Francisco 40 years ago, on April 25. The point was to draw lessons from the results of mankind's great battle against fascism -- a decisive contribution to the victory over which was made by the USSR -- and to pool efforts and political will in the interests of building a post-war world in the name of maintenance of peace and international security.

The United Nations Organisation was born from the experience of history's most sanguinary and devastating war. The lofty goals and principles of the UN Charter reflected the aspirations of the peoples and became a generally recognised charter of norms which is called upon to regulate relations between states. "To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" is the foundation-stone of the activities of the world body.

Practically all big international problems are discussed at the United Nations. Such a wide participation of the United Nations in current affairs and events in the present-day world is called forth by the very purpose and mission of the forum "to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations".

The UNO had to work and act in a difficult and tense post-war atmosphere. The United States together with a group of its allies, disregarding the UN Charter and the canons of international law and contrary to their obligations as the allies for the anti-Hitler coalition, took a road of knocking together aggressive military blocs and pursuing a position-of-strength, brinkmanship and cold-war policy against the USSR and other socialist countries, and a policy of gross interference in the internal affairs of peoples who embarked upon the road of independent development. This was how the normal development of international life, with which the peoples associated their hopes, was blocked.

The USSR as a founding member of the United Nations Organisation holds the UNO as an instrument of collective security and its lofty and responsible activities in great respect. This has been convincingly illustrated by not less than a hundred Soviet constructive initiatives which have been put forward from the UN rostrum. The USSR has always put in the centre of UN activities, first of all, the matters which are of fundamental importance for improving the international situation, for ending the race of arms, nuclear ones, in the first place, and for settling crises and conflicts in various parts of the world through talks, for strengthening trust and developing cooperation between states. Important resolutions on the utilization of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of mankind, as well as on the inadmissibility of a policy of state terrorism were adopted at the latest 39th session of the UN General Assembly due to new major Soviet initiatives.

The essence of the vow made forty years ago -- to prevent a devastating conflagration of a world war -- is particularly topical now. Owing to Washington's egoistic and militarist course, mankind has found itself faced with the choice: either a further heightening of tension and confrontation or a constructive search for mutually acceptable agreements aimed at putting a stop to the process of material preparation for a nuclear conflict. A search for peace would be also promoted also by a greater effectiveness of the UNO in the implementation, in accordance with its Charter, of tasks to settle international disputes and conflict situations peacefully and to remove the threat to international peace and security. The UN jubilee should be marked by new efforts aimed at improving international relations and at strengthening trust between states in the spirit of detente. Reserves and possibilities for the pursuance of the policy of peace and progress are truly great.

ILO PRACTICES AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SCORED

LD241651 Moscow TASS in English 1629 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- "The universal character of the International Labour Organization (ILO) is undermined by the discrimination of the socialist countries, the lack of opportunity for equitable cooperation of all countries in that organisation." The Soviet NEW TIMES weekly of foreign policy analysis points out in its latest issue. The practical activities of ILO are in conflict with the aims of its charter. As, first, the questions concerning the vital interests of the working people -- the right to life and the right to work are disregarded and underestimated, second, attempts are made by representatives of the USA and a number of their NATO allies to use ILO against the countries of the socialist community, to organize interference in their home affairs.

"ILO," the weekly points out, "could become a unique international association of trade unions of various trends acting in defence of the vital interests of the working people. Yet these favourable potentialities have, deplorably, not been realized. The refusal of the ILO Secretariat to promote the spread of objective truthful information about the role and place of trade unions in the socialist society, their rights and possibilities, real participation in the administration of the state can be explained, deplorably, only as political tendentiousness. As even the modest proposal to hold an international seminar on the position of the trade unions in the socialist countries meets with opposition."

ILO is increasingly becoming a tool of propaganda and of planting in the developing countries the capitalist model of social development, the so-called "social partnership", the policy of class cooperation to the detriment of the interests of the working people. "The present situation should be rectified for restoring trust in the ILO Secretariat on the part of the mass organizations of the working people", the weekly points out in conclusion.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FESTIVAL OPENS IN KIEV

LD242351 Moscow TASS in English 2148 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Kiev April 24 TASS -- "Peace will defeat war" is the motto of the international student festival, which has opened in the capital of the Ukraine today, the international day of youth solidarity. The student festival is being held with the participation of representatives of the younger generation in 55 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, who are united by the common striving to divert the threat of war from the world. Together with their Soviet coevals they have joined in that mass anti-war action, realising that the future and peace are inseparable.

An official opening ceremony of the festival was held in the square outside the building of the Polytechnicum. A torch, from which festival flames were lit, was brought there from the eternal fire at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Park of Eternal Glory. A march of Soviet and foreign students ended in a political manifestation.

The festival will last five days. On its programme are: a scientific practical conference "Youth of the World in the Struggle for Peace", a political practical seminar "Our Actions in Defence of Peace", a political tribunal "Youth Accuses Imperialism", exchange of the experience of preparations and the holding of mass youth actions in defence of peace, political song competitions, the assignment of international detachments to work so that their earnings be donated to the fund of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, as well as other events.

TASS REPORTS REAGAN TELEVISION ADDRESS ON BUDGET

LD250839 Moscow TASS in English 0722 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Washington April 25 TASS -- President Reagan addressed the country on television, attempting anew to justify the White House's budget policy, based on the runaway escalation of military spending with simultaneous drastic cuts in appropriations for social programmes.

The TV address, made on the eve of congressional debated on the draft federal budget for the next fiscal year, contained demogogical assurances that the Washington administration "cares" for the poor, elderly and disabled Americans and even though federal appropriations for social programmes were cut back "in the name of continued economic revival", the President claimed, military spending was not immune either. However, Reagan did not mention the fact that while altogether 17 programmes of aid to the more needy would be completely abolished as a result of the planned cuts, only cosmetic reductions were envisioned in military spending. All the main programmes for the development of new weapons systems remain in force.

NICHOLSON ALLEGEDLY LOOKING FOR NEW SOVIET WEAPON

LD241737 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] London April 24 TASS -- Major A. Nicholson, a staff-member of the U.S. military liaison office, who died while taking photographs of combat equipment through a window of a depot inside a restricted military installation of Soviet troops in Germany in the area of Ludwigslust (the GDR), was definitely on an intelligence gathering mission. This is the conclusion made by observers of many foreign newspapers who analyze that incident which constitutes a gross violation of the accord on military liaison offices of April 3, 1947, under the terms of which the U.S. mission in Potsdam operates.

The Army major from the U.S. military liaison office was on a mission the purpose of which was to fill one big gap in Western intelligence, according to Britain's SUNDAY TIMES. He hoped to collect data about a new Soviet weapon. The paper quotes the words of "one Western military analyst" to the effect that the Soviet units which Nicholson was watching were the main target of Western intelligence. According to him, Western intelligence agencies wanted to acquire a photo of samples of that equipment from a close distance.

New samples of Soviet military equipment are of special interest to Americans and other NATO countries at the present time, the British OBSERVER newspaper writes, commenting on the incident in Ludwigslust. Standing behind that affair, the paper goes on, is an elaborate system of legalized espionage which existed for decades. A search for new weapons stationed in the German Democratic Republic and attempts at determining their numbers, according to the OBSERVER, is a natural mission of Western liaison offices that received a virtual license for espionage after the Second World War.

The paper quotes words of Admiral Carrol, former chief of staff of NATO's Supreme Allied Command Europe, who, commenting on the incident in Ludwigslust expressed no surprise at the fact that somebody had been killed. Such things do happen, he said, for this is a risky business. If you play 'police vs. burglars' someone inevitably gets hurt from time to time, he added.

Bonn April 24 TASS -- Nicholson's mission in Ludwigslust, the West German weekly SPIEGEL writes, is a link in a series of espionage operations staged by the Potsdam U.S. military liaison office in recent months. The reason is the search for new samples of Soviet military equipment. The Pentagon only has satellite photographs. Additional data on that score were to come from intelligence officers in the field.

EEC FIGURE URGES CHANGE OF U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY

LD241052 Moscow TASS in English 1010 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Washington April 24 TASS -- President Reagan received Tuesday in the White House the Chairman of the Commission of the European Communities Jacques Delors. According to official reports, the sides discussed at the meeting some aspects of relations between the U.S. and the European Commor Market in connection with the summit conference of the seven leading capitalist countries due to be held in May.

Observers point out that during the meeting with Reagan J. Delors stressed in every way the urgent need to introduce cardinal changes in the trade, economic and financial policy of the U.S. and to live up to the commitments assumed by Washington in this respect at the previous summit meetings of the "Seven". J. Delors devoted special attention to the extremely high level of the U.S. budget deficit which brought about serious consequences for the economies of European countries as well.

As though to show that the misgivings of the Europeans are well-grounded, the U.S. Administration announced Tuesday that the U.S. budget deficit had increased last month by about 30 billion dollars to reach in the first six months of the current fiscal year a total of 128.1 billion dollars.

NEWSMEN CONTINUE USSR VISIT, MEET COUNTERPARTS

LD232333 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- A delegation of editors and leading correspondents of a number of major U.S. regional newspapers and newspaper syndicates, who have come to the Soviet Union on a visit sponsored by the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, today paid a visit to the Institute of U.S. and Canadian Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The U.S. journalists, representing about 600 newspapers and magazines, were also received at the Press Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, at the Soviet Journalists' Union and at the APN Board. They met political news analysts of the Soviet newspapers PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA and TRUD and a group of military experts of the Soviet Defence Ministry. They were given an opportunity to visit the Star City outside Moscow, where they conferred with leaders of the Soviet space program. On Wednesday U.S. journalists will fly on a one-day visit to Novosibirsk, where they will be hosted by the Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

HOUSE REJECTION OF $14 MILLION CONTRA AID VIEWED

LD242136 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] According to reports from Washington, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress has rejected by a majority vote the Reagan administration's demand for the allocation of $14 million in the current fiscal year for aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Here is an up-to-date news commentary. At the microphone is Yevgeniy Kachanov:

[Kachanov] I do not want to go into all the intricacies of the U.S. political machine. Yes, the Senate, in which the Republicans have a majority, will approve the administration's request, but the House of Representatives, which is dominated by the Democrats, has voted against it. The point here is not the confrontation between the two leading U.S. bourgeois parties; frankly, the difference between them is not that great. But after all, this time it is no accident that both Reagan himself, and those closest to him, including Secretary of State Shultz, devoted so much attention to working over the legislators. Of course, it was easier to give the Republican senators a working over, making references to party discipline, and the like, but I repeat once again, this is not the point, and moreover, the sum cited in the draft resolution submitted for the vote far from reflects the true scale on which Washington's covert and overt subversive activity against Nicaragua is being carried out.

This whole campaign, which is quite noisy and at times brazen, over the question of allocations, in which the latest trump card has been the rumors of so-called Russian military advisors in Nicaragua, indicates that the White House has made support for the Nicaraguan contras a fundamental item in its foreign policy. On closer inspection, the trump card has turned out to be an obviously marked card.

This apart, the congressmen have sufficient grounds to doubt the prospects [perspektivnost] of the course chosen by the present administration, and rightly so, for after all, there was Vietnam not so long ago, where the White House acted blindly, as a captive of its own imperial illusions regarding the possibility of imposing its will upon other peoples. There has been the notorious Guam doctrine, which is still in effect, and the sense of which, if I may remind you, was formulated thus: Make Asians fight Asians. This is the way Washington is acting in Afghanistan and Cambodia too. The events in Nicaragua, where the United States wants to achieve its imperial ends by the hand of the surviving Somozist cutthroats, is a direct analogy.

The lessons of the shameful defeat in Indochina are well remembered in the United States today, and it is no accident that one of the main slogans in the large demonstrations which have been held in recent days by peace champions in the bigger cities was: "Stop [words indistinct]. Such sentiments cannot but affect the stance of the legislators, regardless of (?their political views), and it is no accident that Congressman David (?Warner) stated, I quote, that the administration's policy vis-a-vis Nicaragua is illegal and unjust and does not enjoy the support of the overwhelming majority of the U.S. population. This is undoubtedly the main factor affecting voting in the House of Representatives.

KORIONOV CONSIDERS REAGAN REMARKS ON CONTRAS

PM241058 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition p 5

[V. Korionov "Rejoinder": "A Simple Explanation"]

[Text] It is hard to surprise the world nowadays with fabrications regarding the international situation, but it appears that not all "records" have yet been broken. This was confirmed, in particular, by the interview which the U.S. President gave to the editors of provincial newspapers and radio and television stations the other day.

In connection with the 10th anniversary this month of the U.S. military's flight from Vietnam, the President asked: What lessons has the United States learned from the "Vietnam experience"?

With an air of complete seriousness, the White House boss declared: It is wrong to think that the United States was defeated in Vietnam; Americans were simply misled. First, the end of the war in Vietnam "was incorrectly reported in the press here." But that is not all. It turns out the other culprit was the U.S. Congress, which during the final stage of the war refused to give the administration further funds to support the Saigon regime.

This was just the preamble. The President then turned to contemporary matters, to events in Nicaragua. He stated that he is asking Congress to appropriate millions of dollars more to finance the "contras." Accusing the Sandinists of every imaginable and unimaginable sin, he assured people that the "contras" are not Somozist or CIA hirelings, but simply "freedom fighters."

The explanation is simple then. It turned out that the White House boss was using the historical digressions simply in order to try to extract money from Congress to continue the undeclared war against Nicaragua...

"Challenge to Congress: Reagan's Record of Lies and Illegal Actions in Central America" is the title of a report just published by the Washington Institute for Policy Studies, which cites more than 70 cases of deliberate deception or misleading of Congress regarding the aims of U.S. Central American policy. Well, that is quite a good illustration of the claims made by the head of the Washington administration...

KOBYSH LIKENS NICARAGUA TO VIETNAM EXPERIENCE

PM241341 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 85 p 9

[Vitaliy Kobysh "Observer's Opinion" column under general heading "Hands Off Nicaragua!": "A Vietnam in Central America?"]

[Text] Last Sunday, cutting short his break, U.S. President R. Reagan assembled an unusual conference for such a time, consisting of the secretary of state, the defense secretary, the CIA director, and the national security adviser. A White House spokesman made no secret of the fact that one question was on the agenda -- Nicaragua.

What had happened, what urgent need had brought together the top people in the U.S. Administration? An announcement for the press claimed that they mainly discussed the question of the vote in the U.S. Congress on the question of allocating $14 million for aid to the Nicaraguan "contras." That was for the press. There are indications that in reality they also discussed other questions, very diverse ones, including the possibility of the United States' beginning a direct armed invasion of Nicaragua. This probability is confirmed by relatively authoritative evidence. This was spoken of the other day by ex-President J. Carter, who is very worried that the present Washington administration's course with regard to Nicaragua and Central America has on the whole become irresponsible and openly aggressive. T. O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, for his part, stated: "I do not think the President will rest until our troops, our boys, are in Central America."

In fact, there are already American troops in Central America, and in very considerable numbers. They are entrenched, in particular, all along Nicaragua's borders, and are in effect taking part in an undeclared war against that free, sovereign Central American republic.

The administration's great battle to get Congress to appropriate $14 million in aid to the "contras" is downright laughable.

The CIA alone has in its hands uncontrolled secret funds to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, which they use for the dirtiests deeds, without asking permission either of Congress, or, in many cases, of the "uninitiated" leaders of the administration. For the people who run these affairs, 14 million is peanuts. It is not a question of these dollars, it is a question of the fact that the present U.S. President and his immediate entourage want to obtain from Congress something of the nature of a "Tonkin resolution," that is, a kind of carte blanche which would give them a free hand for any actions against Nicaragua, including open armed aggression.

In his recent speeches and interviews R. Reagan has been deliberately whipping up the atmosphere, fueling the fire, so to speak, and creating a kind of prewar pyschological climate. Here, for instance, is an excerpt from his radio address concerning the vote in Congress on aid to the "contras," which has just been heard by all America: "Let me speak frankly. Any proposal which puts 15,000 people who are participating in the democratic resistance (that is what he calls the hired killers, who are mainly yesterday's members of the criminal Somoza's "guards" --V.K.) at the mercy of the Communists is not a compromise. It is a shameful capitulation. If Congress ever approves such a proposal, it will lead to the consolidation of the process of Nicaragua's transformation into a communist and terrorist arsenal. That will give the 'green light' for Russian-inspired aggression throughout the American Continent, which will ultimately jeopardize our own security."

The readers will forgive me this lengthy quotation, for is explains a great deal. That was precisely the kind of language that was current when America was dragged into the "dirty" war in Indochina. So has the Vietnam experience not taught the Americans anything? The answer to this question will be provided to some extent by the vote in Congress, whose results are not known as I write this column, but it is a fact that the Washington administration's actions with regard to Nicaragua appear unthinking and adventurist in the eyes of many Americans, and by no means only the liberals.

The above-quoted remarks by J. Carter and T. O'Neill can be regarded as routine criticism by Democratic Party representatives of what the Republican administration does, but that cannot account for the statements by a publication like THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. The newspaper published a series of striking articles about what the contras and their patrons from the Washington are doing in Nicaragua.

"...The contras are the true offspring of the CIA. It has chosen their leaders from among the former pupils of Anastasio Somoza's National Guard, and hired the professional bandits of the Argentine military dictatorship to train them..." THE WALL STREET JOURNAL states, for instance, and goes on: "In order to overthrow the regime (in Nicaragua -- V.K.) we are trying to ruin the country and reduce it to poverty, destroying the infrastructure and disrupting trade... According to Americas Watch, a nonparty human rights organization, the contras kidnap, torture, rape, maim, and kill large numbers of unarmed civilians, including women and children..."

When the White House leaders call these thugs and killers "defenders of democracy," they are insulting not only people's common sense, but America itself, including the Congress.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. AID, ARMS TO POL POTISTS

PM231021 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[B. Vinogradov "Internation Commentary": "Fattening Up the Bandits"]

[Text] Washington has recently received a visit from the leaders of the reactionary Cambodian groupings which have found refuge on Thai territory and are waging a predatory war against the PRK. Even at the airport Son Sann, "prime minister" of the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea," stated that he and his retinue had come to the banks of the Potomac to look for "broader support from old friends."

This is not the first U.S. visit by Son Sann, who is trying to restore the old order in Cambodia. He has previously succeeded in obtaining gifts of money and weapons from his "old friends" in Washington.

It is no secret that the United States is gambling on the Pol Pot butchers and emigre rabble of this kind in its attempts to regain its lost positions in Indochina and to play a more active role in developing the situation in the region. It is striking that the latest visit to Washington by the "coalition" ringleaders came immediately after the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee voted to allocate $5 million to the "Khmer freedom fighters." The supporters of that decision make no secret of the fact that money in question will go, one way or another, to obtain weapons for the Pol Pot gangs. Newspapers are noting that, in addition to the other questions discussed in Washington, Son Sann also discussed details of U.S. arms supplies to Cambodian reactionaries' camps.

With good reason the world public regards this Washington administration move as direct U.S. involvement in the undeclared war against the PRK. That opinion is shared by certain U.S. legislators, incidentally. As Congressman J. Leach (Iowa) acknowledges, the beginning of direct military support to the "Cambodian opposition" is tantamount to renewed U.S. intervention in Indochina.

It must be said that previously the United States gave military assistance to Cambodia's enemies through unofficial channels. After the Congress decision it is now to be expected that the undisguised supply of ammunition and arms to the bandit formations entrenched in Thailand will be established, foreign commentators are noting. Even before Son Sann's meeting with G. Shultz, P. Wolfowitz, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and R. Armitage, assistant secretary of defense, stated that the U.S. Administration is studying in earnest the question of "more effective ways of providing assistance." During the talks Shultz confirmed on behalf of himself and the President that the United States will begin direct weapons supplies to Son Sann's supporters. CIA Director W. Casey added for his part that his department fully approves the promise made and decisions taken.

Son Sann could not conceal his delight at a press conference held on the results of the talks. "The main work has been done -- the faucet has been opened. I hope that the flow will soon increase and reach the necessary strength," he said.

A flow of weapons and dollars directed to the bandits's camp and various props for regimes doomed by history -- that is the package of methods used by U.S. imperialism in pursuit of the policy of state terrorism.

TEXTS OF USSR-PRC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Economic Cooperation

PM241424 Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SSSR (OTDEL VTOROY) in Russian No 2, 1985 pp 18-19

["Agreement Between the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Economic and Technical Cooperation" -- headline]

[Text] The Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China, hereinafter referred to as the contracting parties,

with a view to developing economic and technical cooperation founded on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, noninterference in one another's internal affairs, and mutual respect for sovereignty,

proceeding from the need to create a long-term basis for the further development of this cooperation,

with a view to helping the economic development of both countries,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The contracting parties, taking into account the needs and potential of each country's economy, will develop on a long-term basis economic and technical cooperation in spheres to be agreed between the parties.

Article 2

The cooperation envisaged by the present agreement can include:

(1) elaboration, exchange, and transfer of technology and production equipment;

(2) planning, construction, and reconstruction of industrial enterprises and other projects;

(3) reciprocal rendering of technical services, delivery of equipment and materials, training of technical personnel, and other possible forms of cooperation to be agreed by the parties.

Article 3

The specific terms of cooperation will be the subject of separate protocols and/or contracts concluded by the parties' appropriate organizations.

Article 4

Each contracting party pledges not to divulge and not to transfer to third countries the technology and equipment each makes available to the other without the other contracting party's agreement in writing.

Article 5

The tasks envisaged by the present agreement are to be performed subject to coordination and monitoring by the Soviet-Chinese Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

Article 6

The present agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of 10 years. It shall be automatically extended for successive 5-year periods unless either contracting party notifies the other contracting party in writing of its wish to terminate it 6 months prior to the expiration of the present agreement.

In the event that protocols and contracts signed in accordance with the present agreement are not completely fulfilled at the termination of the present agreement, the present agreement will remain in force until they are finally fulfilled,

done at Beijing on December 28, 1984, in duplicate, in the Russian and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic,

for the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic:

I. Arkhipov

for the Government of the People's Republic of China:

Yao Yilin

Forming Cooperation Commission

PM241318 Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SSR (OTDEL VTOROY) in Russian No 2, 1985 pp 20-21

["Agreement Between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of a Soviet-Chinese Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation" -- headline]

[Text] The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China, hereinafter referred to as the contracting parties,

with a view to further developing economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation founded on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect for sovereignty,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The contracting parties have agreed to set up a Soviet-Chinese commission for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the commission.

Article 2

The basic tasks of the commission are:

(1) to monitor progress in the fulfillment of agreements and accords between the two countries in the sphere of economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation;

(2) to draft proposals aimed at promoting the steady development of economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation;

(3) to examine jointly measures aimed at the further expansion of cooperation

Article 3

The commission will consist of chairmen, members, and secretaries appointed by each of the contracting parties respectively. Deputy heads of government of the contracting parties are to be appointed chairmen of the commission. If needed, the contracting parties may co-opt appropriate persons to take part in the commission's regular sessions.

The commission's current work is to be done by the commission secretaries.

Annual regular sessions of the commission will be held alternately in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and in the People's Republic of China. The parties are to agree in advance on the convening of any session and its agenda.

The protocols of sessions are to be signed by the sides' chairmen at the conclusion of each regular session of the commission.

Article 4

If needed, and subject to mutual agreement, the chairmen of the sides of the commission can establish standing and interim working organs subordinate to the commission.

Article 5

The present agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of 10 years. It shall be automatically extended for successive 5-year periods unless either contracting party notifies the other contracting party in writing of its wish to terminate it 6 months prior to the expiration of the present agreement.

done at Beijing on December 28, 1984, in duplicate, in the Russian and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

for the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

I. Arkhipov

for the Government of the People's Republic of China:

Yao Yilin

Scientific Cooperation

PM241348 Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SSSR (OTDEL VTOROY) in Russian No 2, 1985 pp 22-23

["Agreement Between the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Scientific and Technical Cooperation" -- headline]

[Text] The Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the People's Republic of China, hereinafter referred to as the contracting parties,

proceeding from the interests of the development of both countries' science and technology,

guided by the principles of equality and mutual benefit,

mindful that scientific and technical cooperation will help the economic development of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of China,

deeming it necessary to create a long-term basis for the development of this cooperation,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The contracting parties will promote the development of scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries and will define the directions and spheres of such cooperation.

Article 2

In accordance with the present agreement cooperation between the parties can include:

(1) exchange of scientific and technical delegations and individual scientists and specialists;

(2) exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation, specimens of products and materials, "know-how," and licenses;

(3) organization of scientific and technical symposiums and scientific conferences;

(4) conduct of joint research and development, and also exchange of the results of research and development;

(5) other forms of scientific and technical cooperation which may be mutually agreed.

Article 3

The contracting parties will promote scientific and technical cooperation between the appropriate departments, organizations, and enterprises in both countries in accordance with agreements or contracts concluded within the framework of the present agreement.

Article 4

The Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics appoints the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology and the Government of the People's Republic of China appoints the PRC State Committee for Science and Technology as executive organs of the present agreement.

Article 5

The contracting parties have agreed that questions of a commercial, financial, and legal nature arising in the process of cooperation must be incorporated in separate agreements and contracts, which are to be concluded in accordance with the legislation in force in both countries.

Article 6

The contracting parties pledge not to transfer to any third party the scientific and technical information and documentation received by them or their representatives within the framework of the present agreement without the official agreement of the party making this scientific and technical information and documentation available.

Article 7

The present agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years. It shall be automatically extended for successive 5-year periods unless either contracting party notifies the other contracting party in writing of its wish to terminate it 6 months prior to the expiration of the present agreement.

done at Beijing on December 28, 1984, in duplicate, in the Russian and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

for the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics:

I. Arkhipov

for the Government of the People's Republic of China:

Yao Yilin

PRC TEAM TAKES PART IN ACROBATICS COMPETITION

OW151335 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 14 Apr 85

[Text] The international acrobatics traditional competition, held in memory of Soviet cosmonaut Molkov, opened at Moscow's Izmailovo Stadium on 13 April. Molkov was once the chairman of the Soviet acrobatic sports association. Over 80 athletes from 6 countries are taking part in this competition, including the Chinese acrobatic sports team attending it for the first time. Soviet athletes made a very good showing in seven events on the first day. Two mixed teams of the USSR are taking part in this competition. The Chinese team displayed a high standard in the competition and was very popular among the Moscow spectators. It scored best in the men's quadruples and doubles events, placing second in both. In women's doubles and mixed doubles, the other two events the Chinese team entered, it placed third based on the scores of the first day. The competition will continue on Sunday.

DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES USSR VISIT

Comments on Talks

LD231408 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 85

[Text] The official friendly visit to the Soviet Union by Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the WKP [Workers Party of Korea] Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister of the DPRK, ended today.

Before departing he gave an interview to our own correspondent.

[Begin Kim recording in Korean fading into Russian translation] Our visit to the Soviet Union was very successful. We are leaving your country filled with unforgettable impressions.

There was my meeting with the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, during which I handed him a personal message from Comrade Kim Il-song. During the meeting with Comrade Gorbachev, I once again gained the conviction that relations between our states will continue to grow broader and deeper.

We are also extremely satisfied with the results of the talks with Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, which took place in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere. There was an exchange of views on a broad range of questions concerning political, economic and cultural cooperation between our countries, and also on a series of international problems of mutual interest. The talks demonstrated unity of views on all the questions under discussion. We signed a treaty between the USSR and the DPRK concerning crossing the Soviet-Korean state border and a consular convention between the USSR and the DPRK. We are sure that our talks in Moscow will promote the deepening of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK.

We also visited Georgia and Moldavia, holding useful conversations with leaders of these republics, and were able to experience the hospitality of Soviet people. We felt as though we were at home. [end recording]

In conclusion, allow me to voice the conviction that the friendship between the Korean and Soviet peoples is eternal and unbreakable, said Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the WKP Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister of the DPRK.

Leaves for Warsaw

PM241317 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Completed"]

[Text] Kim Yong-nam, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the DPRK Administration Council, and DPRK foreign minister, returned to Moscow 23 April from a tour of the country. On the same day he left for Warsaw. Kim Yong-nam had been in the USSR on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At the airport he was seen off by M.S. Kapitsa, USSR deputy foreign minister; N.M. Shubnikov, USSR ambassador to the DPRK, and other officials.

Kwon Hui-kyong, DPRK ambassador to the USSR, and S. Kociolek, Polish ambassador to the USSR, were also among the send-off party.

It is of tremendous political importance to us that this visit has coincided with the 115th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth and preparation for the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascist Germany and militarist Japan, Kim Yong-nam said before leaving. We have seen the practical embodiment of Lenin's ideas, of Lenin's nationalities policy, he continued. In your country, we felt with new force Soviet people's adherence to peaceful, constructive labor and their desire for peace. My meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has left an indelible impression, Kim Yong-nam stressed. My talks with A.A. Gromyko were successful.

The guest noted the hospitality which was given to him and those accompanying him in Moscow, Tbilisi, and Kishinev. We were greeted everywhere as brothers, he said.

ANNIVERSARY OF DPRK ARMY'S CREATION MARKED

Army's History Reviewed

PM241806 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 85 First Edition p 3

[Article by A. Golts pegged to Korean People's Army Day: "Watching Over the Homeland"]

[Text] It was 53 years ago. The Japanese colonialists were throwing their weight around in Korea. They were trying to intimidate the country's inhabitants with mass reprisals and monstruous terror and turn them into slaves. But the Korean people's response to the aggressors' brutality was to launch an organized armed struggle. On 25 April 1932, the first partisan detachment was created in the vicinity of Pakchu-san mountain. That day is seen as the day the Korean People's Army was born.

The partisans launched bold strikes against the occupiers and attacked Japanese garrisons, but the enemy was very strong. It was September 1945 before the long-awaited liberation came. It was brought by the Soviet soldiers who had fought hard to rout the Japanese Kwantung army.

However, the Korean people did not live long in conditions of peace. The new aspirants to the "leadership of Asia" tried to establish control in the Korean peninsula and prevent the building of socialism in the DPRK. In 1950, U.S. imperialism and its Seoul henchmen unleased aggression against People's Korea. One-third of the U.S. Army's ground forces, one-fifth of the Air Force, and a sizeable U.S. naval force were hurled into battle against the forces of the Korean People's Army. In their efforts to bring the Korean people to their knees, the U.S. strategists did not shrink from making massive bombing raids on peaceful cities and even using bacteriological weapons. The Korean troops countered the interventionists' barbarity with selfless valor and a desire to drive out the enemy at all costs. The exploits of the defenders of Hills 1211 and 1052 and other heroes were glorious chapters in the history of the Korean People's Army. Having lost hundreds of thousands of officers and men in the space of 3 years, the aggressor was compelled to sign an armistice agreement.

Although they had suffered a military defeat, Washington and Seoul did not abandon their efforts to intimidate the DPRK but pursued a policy of nuclear blackmail and military threats. The response to the DPRK's peace initiatives has been a series of provocative militarist demonstrations in the southern part of the Korean peninsula involving hundreds of thousands of U.S. and South Korean servicemen. Scarcely had the "Team Spirit-85" maneuvers ended when others -- "Myologong-85" -- were already under way. All these exercises are essentially turning into a rehearsal for aggression against the DPRK.

Under these difficult conditions, the Korean People's Army has a greater responsibility than ever before to maintain peace and security in the region. The men and officers of the Korean People's Army are honorably carrying out their duty; they are steadfastly watching over the gains of the working people of People's Korea. The troops of the Korean People's Army are ready at a moment's notice to repulse an attack on their country.

At all times -- in the grim period of the war and during the years of peaceful creation -- Soviet people have given and are giving the Korean people fraternal assistance. Our country's position was manifested once again during the recent visit to the USSR by Kim Yong-nam, vice premier of the State Administration Council and DPRK foreign minister. During the talks with the Soviet side, the willingness to consistently and actively back the DPRK's struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea was confirmed.

On Korean People's Army Day, Soviet people and the troops of the Soviet Armed Forces send their ardent congratulations to the servicemen of the Korean People's Army and wish them further successes in safeguarding the DPRK's security.

Moscow Exhibition Opens

PM141422 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 85 First Edition p 3

[Report by Colonel V. Khobotov, retired: "Exhibition Opens"]

[Text] An exhibition celebrating the 53d anniversary of the Korean People's Army has opened at the USSR Armed Forces Central Museum. The exhibits tell the history of the Korean People's Army and its combat story and recounts its life today and the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Korean peoples and the troops of their Armies.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by generals and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, and members of the Moscow public.

The gathering was addressed by Major General Kim Han-sang, military attache at the DPRK Embassy in the USSR.

ROK PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR U.S. IN WAKE OF PROTESTS

LD240802 Moscow TASS in English 0647 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Tokyo April 24 TASS -- In the wake of mass student demonstrations and opposition protests, South Korea's dictator Chon Tu-hwan today left on a trip to the United States. According to the Japanese press, he will hold talks with President Reagan on the situation in the Korean peninsula and intensification of Washington-Seoul miltiary-political cooperation.

The trip by the head of the Seoul regime is taking place against the background of an aggravated political situation in the south of the Korean peninsula due to anti-government actions by the students who demand Chon's immediate resignation and withdrawal of the American occupation corps from the country.

DRA PROTESTS PAKISTANI AIRSPACE VIOLATION

PM241345 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Afghanistan-Pakistan; Resolute Protest"]

[Text] Kabul, 23 Apr -- The DRA Foreign Ministry has lodged a resolute protest with Pakistan in connection with the latter country's Air Force violation of Afghanistan's airspace in the Barikowt region on the morning of 17 April.

BAKHTAR news agency has reported that the Afghan authorities have demanded that the Pakistani charge d'affaires ad interim in the DRA ask his country immediately to halt these acts of provocation which are complicating the situation on the border between the two countries.

DRA ANNIVERSARY, ASSEMBLY OPENING DISCUSSED

LD241527 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS -- By TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov:

The Afghan people mark the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution by new achievements in consolidating society, developing democratic institutions, effecting large-scale social and economic transformations which have been made possible by the national democratic revolution of 1978. Loya Jirga, the highest body of state power of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, began its work in Kabul. Traditional for Afghanistan, that body convened in the past, too, for taking decisions that had great importance for the future of the country.

It should be recalled, for example, that during the rule of Amanulla Khan, the founder of independent Afghanistan, Loya Jirga came out in favor of establishing friendly relations with the young Soviet Republic and decided to press for the complete elimination of Afghanistan's dependence on British colonialists. There is no doubt that the decisions of the current Loya Jirga will be of paramount importance for the life of the country.

The working people of the Republic, all sections of Afghan society were looking forward to that event. And this is understandable, for the current Loya Jirga is held in the conditions when the party and state leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are following a principled policy of ensuring equal rights and freedoms for all peoples, nationalities and tribes living in the country - something unheard of under the former regimes of exploiters.

Having arrived in Kabul most authoritative representatives of all strata of Afghan society, of all provinces and all nationalities of Afghanistan will sum up the result of what has been done so far, formulate tasks to be fulfilled in the future, discuss ways for ensuring peace and tranquility in the country and further promoting the unity of its people.

The achievements of the April Revolution in Afghanistan are evident. The economy is developing dynamically. Hundreds of thousands of peasants who formerly had no land or little land have been given land plots to toil on. Consistent efforts are being made to eliminate illiteracy and develop health services. Conditions have been created in the country for the full unity and genuine equality of all nationalities and tribes, for their active participation in the life and work of the Republic. Afghan Armed Forces have become a dependable guard of the interests of the people.

Last year they have dealt strong blows at counter-revolutionary bands trained by imperialist and reactionary forces abroad and sent into Afghanistan. The victories of the Afghan Armed Forces promoted the process of normalization of peaceful life in the country.

These achievements could be more impressive if it were not for the intensifying interference of hostile forces from outside in the affairs of Afghanistan. It is natural, therefore, that ways for repulsing such interference, defeating the counter-revolution exported from abroad, safeguarding national independence of Afghanistan and defending the freedom of its people are at the center of attention of the current Loya Jirga. The Afghan leader Babrak Karmal told the participants in the Jirga that the Afghan revolution relies on the will of the people, the assistance of loyal friends of the D.R.A. abroad, and above all, the mighty and selfless support of its great friend, the Soviet Union. And this is an earnest of the imminent failure of underhand schemes of imperialists and counter-revolutionary forces against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and their efforts to check the development of the revolution in that country.

BRIEFS

AFGHAN SOLIDARITY WEEK -- A solidarity week with Afghanistan began in the Turkmen SSR on 21 April. The week is in response to a call by the World Peace Council and has been dedicated to the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution in the DRA. Solidarity meetings will be organized during the week in Turkmenistan's factories, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and educational establishments, and photographic exhibitions will be opened depicting the Afghan people's struggle for the success of their new state and Afghanistan's achievements in the creation of a new life. The solidarity week coincided with the arrival of a delegation of Afghan workers and farmers. The guests visiting Turkmenistan will acquaint themselves with the life and work conditions of their Turkmen counterparts and with Turkmenistan's achievements under Soviet sovereignty. The members of the Afghan delegation will also participate in the celebrations organized within the framework of the solidarity week. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 21 Apr 85 GF]

SRV ASSEMBLY DELEGATION VISITS SUPREME SOVIET

PM241117 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Guests From Vietnam"]

[Text] An SRV National Assembly delegation headed by Nguyen Huu Tho, the Assembly's chairman, has arrived in Moscow on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

On 23 April the guests visited the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Vietnamese parliamentarians were greeted by L.N. Tolkunov and A.E. Voss, chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities, respectively.

The friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Socialist Vietnam, it was noted during the talk, has been tested by time and tempered in the common struggle against imperialism and in creative labor for communism, socialism, and peace. The delegation head stressed that the Vietnamese working people's successes are indivisibly linked with the effective aid of the USSR and the other socialist countries. We express sincere thanks to the fraternal Soviet people, he said.

The mutual conviction was voiced that the delegation's visit will be one more contribution to the further consolidation of the two states' friendship and cooperation.

Taking part in the talk were A.A. Ferensas, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy; V.G. Vysotin, chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium International Relations Department; other officials; and Nguyen Van Quang, SRV charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR.

On the same day, the Vietnamese guests visited the V.I. Lenin Office and Apartment Museum in the Kremlin.

KUZNETSOV RECEIVES LAO ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS

LD241451 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, today presented his credentials to Vasiliy Vasiliyevich Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin.

After the presentation of credentials and an exchange of speeches between Comrades Kuznetsov and Khaikhamphithoun, there was a warm and friendly conversation in which Comrade Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Comrade Kapitsa, USSR deputy foreign minister, took part.

PRAVDA CITES HONECKER ON GENEVA, INTRA-GERMAN TIES

PM231543 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "E. Honecker Interview"]

[Text] Berlin, 20 Apr -- The preservation of peace is the most important task today, E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, declared in an interview with Italian journalists, the text of which has been disseminated by ADN in Berlin.

Our country, he said, like the peace-loving public throughout the world, pins great hopes on the Soviet-American talks on the whole package of nuclear and space arms. We fully support the USSR's recent proposal advanced by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in conversation with PRAVDA's editor.

Answering questions about GDR-FRG relations, E. Honecker emphasized that these relations have a great influence on the situation in Europe and throughout the world. However, the fact that a serious threat to peace is posed by the turning of the FRG into a launch site for American medium-range nuclear missiles must not be ignored. At the same time, this is a cause for the activation of certain circles seeking to question the results of World War II and postwar development. The FRG must make every effort, just as the GDR is doing, to ensure that war never again emanates from German soil.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON DEMICHEV'S VISIT TO POLAND

Culture Days Remarks

PM241534 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 18 Apr 85 p 7

[T. Dazhina report: "Celebration of Cultural Brotherhood. The Warsaw Ceremonial Opening of USSR Culture Days in Poland Is a Real Celebration of Art"]

[Excerpt] Warsaw -- Representatives of the creative intelligentsia, workers from Warsaw's enterprises, and students assembled in the capital's Teatr Wielki, which was decorated with Polish and Soviet flags. W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, H. Jablonski, chairman of the Polish State Council, and other party and state leaders were in the audience.

The USSR culture days were opened by K. Zygulski, Polish minister of culture and art. Those assembled were then addressed by J. Czyrek, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, and P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR Minister of culture, and head of the Soviet delegation.

The fraternal friendship of the Soviet and Polish peoples, he said, will strengthen and develop and find increasingly large-scale, full-blooded, and specific embodiment in the economic, political, and cultural cooperation of the two countries. In the Soviet people's mind, friendship with the Polish people is organically combined with awareness of the commonality of our social goals and historical destinies. Our Leninist party regards the strengthening of the unity of the socialist countries' peoples as one of the most important goals of its policy. "The first commandment of the party and the state," Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed, "is to cherish and comprehensively strengthen the fraternal friendship with our closest comrades-in-arms and allies, the countries of the great socialist community."

The head of the Soviet delegation pointed out that the forthcoming memorable dates -- the 40th anniversary of the Soviet-Polish treaty and the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism -- symbolize the strength of spirit and wisdom of our peoples, who managed not only to hold out in the deadly clash with the hordes of invaders who were armed to the teeth, but also to counterpose to the inhuman ideology of fascism the noble principles of socialist humanism and the clear historical prospect of building a new society based on the supreme values of social justice, cooperation, security, freedom, and peace for all peoples. The Soviet-Polish brotherhood-in-arms, which is a historic gain of our peoples, was born and tempered in the fire of the great liberation struggle.

We will continue, P.N. Demichev emphasized, to firmly and steadfastly follow the Leninist course of peace and social progress and to persistently struggle to end the arms race, prevent the militarization of space, ease international tension, and establish an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and mutual understanding between all peoples and states.

The USSR minister of culture said in conclusion that the Soviet creative intelligentsia totally supports the CPSU's domestic and foreign policy and, together with the whole Soviet people, actively works solving the latest tasks. It seeks to boost the effectiveness of culture and art and strives to create works helping the formation of an active life stance in man, his ideological and moral elevation, and the overcoming of negative phenomena alien to the very essence of the socialist social system.

Attends Anniversary Fete

PM231452 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ceremonial Session"]

[Text] Warsaw, 20 Apr -- A ceremonial session devoted to the 115th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth and the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and Poland was held here today in the Palace of Culture and Science. Party and state figures of the Republic and representatives of the public participated. The delegation of Soviet cultural figures headed by P.N. Demichev was present at the session.

Z. Messner, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, who delivered the report, emphasized that the history of the Polish People's Republic has been formed in close alliance and cooperation with the USSR. The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and Poland, signed 40 years ago, he said, created a basis for bilateral relations underpinned by the principles of socialist internationalism. Over the past 40 years, Poland has traveled a path of fundamental socioeconomic transformations. Thanks to the USSR's assistance, a strong foundation has been created for the Republic's all-around and rapid development. Poland and the Soviet Union are consistently struggling to preserve peace.

Poland will continue to strengthen the political-defensive alliance -- the Warsaw Pact, which is a factor of peace and stability in Europe and throughout the world.

The alliance and fraternal Polish-Soviet relations are underpinned by the indissoluble ideological unity of our Marxist-Leninist parties, the PZPR and the CPSU, which are based on the thoughts and achievements of the great Lenin, Z. Messner pointed out in conclusion.

Receives Award

PM231421 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Presentation of Award"]

[Text] Warsaw, 20 Apr -- Today, H. Jablonski, chairman of the Polish Council of State, presented P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture, who is in Poland at the head of a delegation of Soviet cultural figures in connection with USSR culture days, with the Commander's Cross of the Polish Order of Merit, with Star, which he has been awarded for his great contribution to strengthening friendship and developing cultural ties between the USSR and Poland.

Expressing gratitude for the honorary award, P.N. Demichev declared that it is a high assessment of the work of the USSR's creative intelligentsia and the role of Soviet cultural workers in strengthening and developing spiritual ties with the fraternal Polish people. I perceive this award, he emphasized, as evidence of the bonds of fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation between the CPSU and the PZPR and between our countries and peoples, bonds which are strengthening and deepening with every passing year, and as recognition of fruitful cooperation in the cultural sphere.

On the same day, P.N. Demichev had a meeting with J. Czyrek, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee.

Visits Auschwitz

PM230931 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Laying of Wreaths"]

[Text] Krakow, 19 Apr -- Today the delegation of Soviet cultural figures headed by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture, which is in Poland in connection with the USSR Days of Culture, visited the memorial complex on the territory of Hitler's former Auschwitz death camp.

The guests viewed the memorial and familiarized themselves with preparations for a new exhibition that will open here on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

Wreaths were laid on the monument to the victims of fascism situated on the territory of the memorial complex.

MAGADAN'S MALKOV HEADS CPSU DELEGATION TO ROMANIA

PM231500 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by N.I. Malkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Magadan CPSU Obkom, was in Romania 15 through 22 April to exchange party leadership experience in the sphere of improving the economic mechanism and management of the national economy in line with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the RCP.

The delegation was received by I. Berdet, member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee.

SOVIET, HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS HOLD ECONOMIC TALKS

PM231553 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Cooperation Expanding"]

[Text] A working meeting of the chairmen of the national sections of the Soviet-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow 19 April to examine questions of further expanding economic cooperation between the USSR and Hungary.

A protocol was signed on the results of the meeting. It was signed by N.V. Talyzin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and J. Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

USSR THANKED BY SFRY'S PLANINC FOR CONDOLENCES

PM241429 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 85 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Gratitude for Condolences"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has received a cable from the SFRY Federal Executive Council President M. Planinc in which most sincere appreciation is expressed for the sympathy conveyed in connection with the disaster in the Jablanica area.

SIZOV, CPSU DELEGATION CONTINUE AUSTRIA VISIT

PM231516 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Marking Important Dates"]

[Text] Vienna, 20 Apr -- The CPSU delegation headed by G.F. Sizov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, which is participating in the measures being conducted by Austrian Communists in connection with the 40th anniversary of Austria's liberation from fascism and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the State Treaty, has visited the country's industrial centers -- Linz and Graz. F. Muhri, chairman of the Austrian Communist Party [KPOe], accompanied the delegation.

In Linz the Soviet guests familarized themselves with the work of enterprises of VOeEST-Alpine, Austria's largest nationalized industrial concern, which for many years now has maintained close trade ties with the Soviet Union.

The delegation also visited the territory of the former Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen, where a memorial dedicated to the memory of the more than 120,000 prisoners of different nationalities who died at the hands of SS butchers, including 32,000 Soviet citizens, has been created. A wreath was laid at the memorial to the Soviet people who died.

A rally devoted to the 40th anniversary of the liberation and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the State Treaty was held in Graz today. (V. Gaysh), chairman of the KPOe's Styrian organization, pointed out in his speech that Austrians are profoundly grateful to the Soviet Union and its Armed Forces for the great contribution made to Austria's liberation from the Nazi yoke.

G.F. Sizov emphasized in his speeech that Soviet soldiers entered Austrian territory 40 years ago as liberators. He pointed out that the KPOe waged a selfless struggle for its country's freedom and independence. Many Austrian patriots gave their lives for the sake of the common victory.

Sizov Addresses Meeting

PM231716 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Decisive Contribution"]

[Excerpts] Vienna, 22 Apr -- A ceremonial meeting devoted to the 40th anniversary of Austria's liberation from fascism and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the State Treaty was held yesterday in one of the largest halls in the Austrian capital -- the Konzerthaus. The meeting, which was organized by the Central Committee and leadership of the Communist Party of Austria [KPOe], was attended by veterans of the antifascist resistance movement, KPOe leaders, representatives of the public, and young people. A CPSU delegation headed by G.F. Sizov, chairman of the Central Auditing Commission, was present.

In his speech, G.F. Sizov stated that the Soviet people and their Armed Forces honorably carried out not only their patriotic but their international duty. Over 1 million Soviet soldiers perished outside their motherland's borders in the battles to liberate the European peoples from the brown plague. Some 26,000 of them lie on Austrian soil.

Austrian antifascists fought selflessly against the occupiers for a free and independent Austria. Thousands of true sons and daughters of the KPOe and many Austrian patriots died a brave death in the struggle against mankind's most evil enemy.

The head of the Soviet delegation went on to stress that along with the fraternal socialist countries, the USSR consistently advocates the eradication of the threat of war, the curbing of the arms race, and the maintenance of peace.

Pointing out that on 15 May the Austrian people will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the State Treaty, the speaker states that the treaty -- for whose conclusion the USSR did everything in its power -- and the federal constitutional law on permanent neutrality gave Austria a reliable lasting basis for the development of friendly relations with the Soviet Union and all countries.

ICELAND'S BAN ON NUCLEAR SHIPS DISCUSSED

PM240925 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 5

[M. Zubko article: "Iceland's Decision"]

[Text] In an international commentary entitled "Iceland in the Pentagon's Plans," published yesterday, our newspaper wrote that the United States is building up its military presence in that country and that the decision of the U.S. President, who gave permission (?!) for 48 nuclear depth charges to be stored on the island, has alarmed Icelanders. We then received this important report after that issue of IZVESTIYA had gone to press:

Icelandic Foreign Minister G. Hallgrimsson has stated in parliament that his government has forbidden access to Iceland's territorial waters and ports to U.S. and British ships using nuclear propulsion systems or carrying nuclear weapons.

He added that it is forbidden to deploy nuclear weapons on the island either in peace or wartime without the government's special permission.

That decision is the direct consequence of a protest campaign against the Pentagon's dangerous preparations -- a campaign which was intensified in Iceland after the U.S. President's secret order had been published.

It is easy to understand the Icelanders' indignation at Washington's impudence: according to public opinion polls 86 percent of the country's population are in favor of proclaiming northern Europe a nuclear-free zone, while Washington, without asking the islanders their opinion, is trying to use Iceland in its adventurist nuclear missile strategy.

SPAIN DELAYS HOLDING REFERENDUM ON NATO

PM241411 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 85 Second Edition p 3

[Vladimir Chernyshev "Commentator's Column": "About the Referendum"]

[Text] Madrid -- Spanish Prime Minister F. Gonzalez has announced that a referendum on the question of the country's NATO membership will not be held until March 1986.

As is known, in its election program the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, which came to power in October 1982, promised to hold a general referendum in which the people would be able to express their opinion on the country's participation in the North Atlantic bloc.

At this stage, however, having abandoned their original position, the Socialists are maneuvering, which attests to their desire to preserve NATO membership. According to Madrid press reports, government circles are discussing, for example, the possibility of incorporating in the referendum a question that would link Spain's involvement in the bloc with approval of the government's foreign policy as a whole. It cannot be ruled out that the voting papers might contain a promise by Madrid to dismantle one or two U.S. military bases located on Spanish territory in exchange for the consent of the majority of the country's population to remain in NATO.

In addition, the Atlanticists are also trying to use as an argument the fact that, after talks lasting many years, the Common Market countries recently gave their consent to Spain's admission to the EEC. "Representatives of the Community countries," the magazine CAMBIO-16 writes,"are of the opinion the Europe has fulfilled its promises to Spain by accepting it as a full and equal member of the Common Market, and Spain must now confirm its decision to remain in NATO."

However, by no means everyone here shares this viewpoint. Public opinion polls show that the majority of the population advocates the country's withdrawal from the aggressive bloc and the implementation of a policy of neutrality. The press voices the opinion that under these conditions, the government could undertake a new maneuver by renouncing its promise to hold a referendum and calling an early parliamentary election.

This is why the antiwar movement is growing in Spain these days. A week of action has been held for the country's withdrawal from NATO, initiated by a committee uniting more than 20 political parties and public organizations. The facts show that more and more Spaniards are advocating an independent foreign policy, the strengthening of mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries regardless of their political and social systems, and the relaxation of international tension.

BILATERAL TIES, TRADE WITH PORTUGAL EXAMINED

PM241505 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent P. Golub: "April in Portugal"]

[Excerpt] Lisbon -- The elections held 2 years ago brought the coalition government formed by the Socialist and Social Democratic Parties to power in the country. Portugal's new leaders announced their intention come what may to lead the country out of the very grave socioeconomic crisis. To achieve its aim, the coalition government embarked on the path of attracting foreign capital to the national economy, pursuing an antipopular "economic austerity" program, and has further curtailing the Portuguese working people's socialist gains. The government obtained the "Common Market's" agreement to accept Portugal as a member of the Community.

All this had led to the further intensification of economic difficulties and the aggravation of social contradictions in the country.

At the same time, the government headed by M. Soares has begun to steer a course in the international arena which is more balanced than that of preceding right-wing cabinets. It has demonstrated the readiness to develop broad, mutually advantageous cooperation with various states and to normalize relations with the socialist countries.

Relations with the Soviet Union are also gradually being established in the political, cultural, and sports fields. Many well-known Soviet dancers and musicians, scientists and writers, artists and chess players have visited Portugal recently. In Lisbon, Porto, and other cities you can see increasingly frequently posters announcing performances by Soviet creative collectives. Exhibitions of our masters of representational art are held. Many Portuguese delegations have visited the Soviet Union.

Bilateral trade and economic cooperation between our two countries are developing at a mounting pace. In exchange for purchases of ships (10 have already been built to our order), footwear, and tomato puree, the Soviet Union supplies Portugal with the machine tools and machinery equipment, chemical goods, and trucks it needs. You cannot fail to agree with the recent statement of M. Soares, who declared that the consolidation of interstate relations between our countries accords with the interests of both peoples.

The process of the consolidation of direct ties between Soviet and Portuguese cities has been activated in recent years. The example of cooperation between the twinned cities of Santarem and Tiraspol and Coimbra and Yaroslavl proves in practice the fruitfulness of these relations. They make a great contribution to the development of mutual understanding between our peoples.

SPACE COOPERATION MEMORANDUM SIGNED WITH SWEDEN

PM241337 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 Apr 85 p 4

[N. Vukolov dispatch: "Developing Cooperation"]

[Text] Stockholm -- The signing of a memorandum on the carrying out of joint experiments investigating interplanetery and Martian plasma using Soviet "Phobos" space vehicles has taken place in the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences.

The document was signed by Academician V.A. Kotelnikov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences and chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences "Intercosmos" Council, and Jan Stiernstedt, president of the Swedish Space Research Committee.

It envisages carrying out the first direct investigation of Phobos -- a satellite of Mars -- in the history of space exploration. The presence of Swedish equipment on board the Soviet space vehicles ensures the mutually beneficial nature of the scientific ties.

Soviet-Swedish cooperation in space exploration has been developing successfully and fruitfully since the early seventies, J. Stiernstedt said in an interview given to a TASS correspondent. Swedish equipment has already been used on Soviet earth satellites, and continuing cooperation with the Soviet Union, which has achieved outstanding results in space research, is of undoubted interest to us. The memorandum signed opens up new prospects for joint scientific work, whose results will be of benefit to world space science.

Space is the property of all countries and people. Therefore, it must not be a place for the arms race, but an arena for peaceful collaboration among states in the interests of all mankind. The ties between Swedish and Soviet scientists investigating the expanses of the univer, J. Stiernstedt stressed, are a clear example of such mutually beneficial cooperation.

MURPHY HANDS REAGAN MESSAGE TO SYRIA'S AL-ASAD

LD241039 Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Damascus April 24 TASS -- Hafiz al-Asad, president of Syria, has received the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy who handed over to the head of the Syrian state a message of President Ronald Reagan, the SANA news agancy reports.

The Syrian leader reiterated the principled stand of Syria with regard to the establishment of peace in the region. He pointed out that peace in the Middle East could be established only on the basis of the U.N. Charter and the resolutions of that organization which provided for a just, durable and comprehensive settlement. Syria also adheres to resolutions of the Fes meeting of the heads of Arab states and favours the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East, he said.

The attempts to settle the Middle East problem without taking into consideration the interest of all the Arab nations will inevitably lead to an impasse, Hafiz al-Asad stressed.

PRAVDA CARRIES AL-ASAD THANKS FOR GREETINGS

PM241427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 85 First Edition p 3

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Sovet Presidium

On behalf of the Syrian Arab people, the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and myself, I thank you, dear comrades, for your congratulations on the 39th anniversary of the evacuation of foreign troops from Syria.

I take this opportunity to emphasize that we, like you, are convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our friendly countries, cemented by the Syrian-Soviet treaty, will continue to develop for the benefit of our countries' peoples and in the interests of our common ideals and the aims in which we believe, including the strengthening of international peace and security.

We highly value the firm and principled support which the friendly Soviet Union has given to our just struggle.

Please allow me to wish you the best of health and the friendly Soviet people further successes and prosperity.

Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Arab Republic of Syria

SUDANESE LEADER VIEWS GOVERNMENT'S TASKS, POLICY

PM241509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Course Announced"]

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr -- Al-Jazuli Daf'allah, chairman of the Sudanese Council of Ministers, has given an interview to the MENA news agency.

He described the main tasks facing the country's new government as preparing for constituent assembly elections, resolving the southern Sudan problem on a democratic basis, removing the previous regime's legacy, eliminating economic difficulties, and formulating an economic reform program. The government's tasks, Al-Jazuli Daf'allah pointed out, also include ensuring freedom of trade union activity and independence for the judicial organs and guaranteeing freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

The Transitional Military Council, he went on to say, is the supreme legislative organ, and the government is the supreme executive organ. Relations between them are defined by the provisions of the 1956 Constitution as amended in 1964. The head of the Sudanese Government stated that the Council of Ministers will continue to maintain contacts with forces belonging to the Union of National Forces for the Salvation of Sudan.

In the international arena, Al-Jazuli Daf'allah stressed, Sudan will adhere to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and refrain from involvement in any blocs. He expressed a readiness to cooperate with all states.

Khartoum, 23 Apr -- The Sudanese Transitional Military Council has decided to set up a transitional Executive Council for the southern region. Major General (J. Loro) has been appointed its chairman. This organ's task includes the administration of the country's southern regions during the transitional period.

TASS CITES 25 APR IRAQI, IRANIAN BATTLE REPORTS

LD251035 Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad April 25 TASS -- According to a communique of the High Military Command, Iraqi Air Force planes made 105 sorties over the past day and attacked the positions and areas of concentration of enemy forces in the sector "to the east of the Tigris River" and in the region to the east of Basra. Iraqi artillery destroyed several enemy ammunition depots, observation posts, shelters and other military installations.

Nicosia April 25 TASS -- A regular military communique circulated by the Iranian news agency IRNA says that artillery duels continued in different sectors of the front. They were most intensive in the central and southern sectors. The communique says that the enemy suffered losses in manpower and materiel.

BRIEFS

CULTURAL TIES WITH TUNISIA -- The latest session of the joint Soviet-Tunisian committee for cultural cooperation has ended at the USSR Foreign Ministry. The sides agreed to and signed a program of cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and Tunisia for 1985 and 1986. The document provides for the further development of cooperation in education, science, culture, information, health care, and sports. [Text] [Moscow Television Service in Russian 2054 GMT 24 Apr 85 LD]

RSA 'MANEUVERS' OVER NAMIBIA, ANGOLA CONDEMNED

PM241426 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 85 First Edition p 5

[Igor Tarutin "Commentator's Column": "Racists' Maneuvers"]

[Text] The RSA [Republic of South Africa] Government has announced the completion of the withdrawal of its troops from the southern regions of Angola, which have been occupied for several years now. Why are the racists leaving at this precise time?

The decision is closely bound up with the Namibia problem and with South Africa's desire to keep that country under its control. RSA President P. Botha announced in parliament the formation of a so-called "transitional government" consisting of the puppet Namibian "internal parties." Although nominally the administration of the country is being transferred to it, in fact it is merely a change of mask: as before, Pretoria remains Namibia's sovereign master. Foreseeing a sharply negative reaction in Africa and beyond to this stunt, the RSA has made its diversionary "peace-loving" gesture in Angola.

This fooled hardly anyone, however. The racists' attempt to implement an "internal settlement" of the Namibian problem has been condemned by many states, the OAU, and UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar, who called the move "unlawful and unacceptable."

Pretoria's actions were also sharply criticized at the extraordinary session of the Non-aligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau on Namibia, which finished recently in Delhi. The participants in the meeting in the Indian capital advocated that sanctions be adopted against the apartheid regime.

In this light, the U.S. Administration's stance presents a sharp contract. Despite the American and international public's demands for a boycott of South Africa, Washington is continuing its course of "constructive engagement" with the racists. In so doing, the White House hypocritically claims that the isolation of the apartheid regime encourages it to engage in new adventures.

However, it is precisely the all-around U.S. support that prompts the RSA to launch such adventures. Further evidence of this is the machinations involving the puppet "transitional government." Nor is there any letup in the pressure on the "Frontline" States to force them to accept the creation of a neocolonialist regime in Namibia. Pretoria has announced, incidentally, that South Africa's troops could return to Angola "if necessary." In other words, the RSA will not balk at a new invasion.

With the clear connivance of the West, the racists are issuing a challenge to world public opinion. Their maneuvers are merely a cover for the same old aggressive policy.

HABRE GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO 'SUPPRESS' OPPOSITION

PM231515 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Events in Chad"]

[Text] Paris, 22 Apr -- France continues to step up its all-around support for the pro-Western regime in Chad and to build up its military-political presence in this Central African country.

This is the unequivocal conclusion reached by political observers commenting on French External Relations Minister R. Dumas' tour of a number of African countries. During his tour, he visited Chad where he held talks with H. Habre, the Ndjamena regime ringleader.

According to the official version, "the resolution of the Chad problem with the participation of all interested parties was discussed" at the meeting in Ndjamena. After the meeting, the head of the French External Relations Ministry even spoke of a certain "growing desire" of Habre's to sit down at the negotiating table with the opponents. However, facts quite obviously testify to the contrary. On the instructions of Paris and Washington, the Chadian puppet regime is not just thwarting a peaceful settlement in the country in every possible way, but has launched a large-scale punitive operation "to suppress southern regions" whose population opposes Ndjamena's antipopular policy. According to reports coming from Chad, Habre's soldiery is killing innocent civilians including women, old people, and children. Taking part in these punitive operations are Army units of the Central African Republic which support Habre's soldiery in the south.

Tripoli, 22 Apr -- Habre's pro-Western regime, in collusion with imperialism, is perpetrating bloody crimes against the Chadian people, the Libyan newspaper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR writes.

A few day ago, the newspaper notes, Chad's provisional Government of National Unity reported a massacre by Ndjamena's troops of the peaceful inhabitants of Maru, a small town in the south of the country. This terrible crime, to which hundreds of women, old people, and children fell victim, was a deliberately planned operation of Habre's clique. The point is that U.S. companies are prospecting for oil in this area, and the local population whose existence depends on cotton growing was "in the way" of the Trans-Atlantic oil magnates.

VOSS, RYZHOV ATTEND ZIMBABWE EMBASSY RECEPTION

PM241028 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A reception to mark Zimbabwe's national holiday was held 18 April by the Zimbabwean Embassy in the USSR.

It was attended by A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, N.S. Ryzhov, USSR deputy foreign minister, and other officials.

CPSU DELEGATION LEAVES FOR TANZANIA 21 APR

PM231502 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "CPSU Delegation Leaves"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by B.V. Nikolskiy, second secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, left for Dar es Salaam 21 April in line with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM).

The delegation arrived in Dar es Salaam 22 April.

PRAVDA REPORTS PLANS FOR 4 MAY SUBBOTNIK

PM241045 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Unattributed report: "A Labor Festival for Victory Day"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee is receiving many letters, appeals, and resolutions adopted at meetings of collectives of enterprises and organizations in the hero cities of Moscow, Leningrad, and Volgograd, which have put forward the initiative on holding an All-Union Communist Subbotnik [voluntary Saturday work] on 4 May 1985 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

It is only a matter of days until the bright, joyous holiday -- the 40th anniversary of victory, the people of Moscow, Leningrad, and Volgograd write to the CPSU Central Committee. This date is truly sacred to us, and it evokes a special response in every heart. All that happened is carefully preserved in the war-seared memories of those who traveled the terrible roads of the front and those who worked in the rear, sparing no effort to bring the long-awaited victory closer by the selfless labor. Memory also knocks at the hearts of those who were born later, when the last thunder of unprecedented battles had died away. For them, the last war means the irremediable pain of loss, the stern ranks of soldiers' obelisks, the wounded land of their childhood.

The mass heroism of servicemen and rear workers and their courage and staunchness reflected the moral greatness of Soviet people educated by the Leninist Communist Party, and these heroic achievements have always been an inexhaustible source of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism and a shining example for every new generation.

The 40th peacetime spring is now marching confidently across the Soviet land, and peace means labor. Staunch, creative labor for the sake of the motherland's prosperity, for the sake of a bright future for all mankind. This spring has its own special features. A high degree of labor and political enthusiasm was aroused by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee March (1985) Plenum. The country's working people are profoundly aware of the need to work smoothly, to strictly observe technological, plan, and labor discipline, and to overcome the laggardness that has occurred in a number of sectors of the national economy in order to successfully complete the plan for the current year and the 5-year plan as a whole and to greet the 27th CPSU Congress in a fitting manner.

Millions of Soviet people are setting examples of labor heroism on the memory vigil in honor of the 40th anniversary of victory. Herein lies the indissoluble link between generations, the continuity of our people's traditions, the greatness of their feat. How to mark victory day, which we all cherish, with new successes in labor -- that is the idea by which all our great people, the conquering people, the working people, now live.

Expressing Soviet people's patriotic feelings, the collectives of enterprises and organizations in the hero cities of Moscow, Leningrad, and Volgograd appeal to the working people of the Land of the Soviets: Make 4 May, on the eve of the holiday, an All-Union Communist Subbotnik to mark the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The workers, engineers, technicians, and employees of Moscow's Manometry, Dynamo, Kalinin Machine-Building Plant, and Burevestnik Associations, the Lenin Komsomol Truck Plant, the First State Bearings Plant, the Radio Equipment Plant, the Kompressor Plant, the Ilich Locomotive Depot, the Mosstroy-20 Trust, the Glavmospromstroy, the No 9 Timber Processing Combine, the Glavmospromstroymaterialy, and a number of other enterprises and organizations of the capital have adopted pledges to do a full working shift on that day without remuneration, to work as productively as possible, and to ensure that the output produced and the work done are of a high standard.

The collectives of Leningrad's Kirovskiy Zarod, A.A. Zhdanov Izhorskiy Zavod, Ya.A. Kalinin Skorokhod, and 60th Anniversary of the USSR Fosforint Associations, the A.A. Zhdanov Ship-Building Plant, the Oktyabrskaya Railroad, the No 6 Construction Trust of the Glavleningradstroy, the Izhorstroy No 35 Construction Trust of the Glavzapstroy, and the Detskoselskoye and Ruchi Sovkhozes Production Associations propose to channel the funds earned on the communist subbotnik into the construction of hospitals for war and labor veterans, the improvement of medical and consumer services for them, the care of sites commemorating combat glory, and the construction in Moscow City of a monument to the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945.

On the subbotnik, the people of Volgograd will strive to ensure the greatest possible labor productivity at every work place. Pledges have been set for the subbotnik by the tractor builders at the F.E. Dzerzhinskiy Plant, the workers of the steel cable plant, the 15th State Bearings Plant, the Petrov Petroleum Machine-Building Plant, and the A.N. Kosygin Cotton Textiles Combine. The shipbuilders have decided to float the tanker "Ulyana Gromova" ahead of schedule.

The collectives launching the patriotic intiative call on people to work at their own work places on the subbotnik -- at plants, factories, construction sites, and scientific research and design organizations, at transport, communications, trade, and consumer service enterprises, and in the fields and livestock units.

It is the duty of economic leaders and party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations to ensure harmonious work by associated enterprises and sectors and by all subdivisions and services within the national economy, to set a specific, intensive target for every collective and every participant in the subbotnik, and to create the conditions for highly productive labor.

The initiators call on people to work mainly on the basis of saved materials and energy resources and to produce more, better quality output than on ordinary days.

The subbotnik, the appeals say, should be our labor monument to those who never heard the salvos of the victory salute in May 1945, who did not live to see the 40th peacetime spring, and to all who gave their lives for the freedom and happiness of present and future generations. Its labor intensity should equal that of the unparalleled vigil of our fathers and mothers, our older brothers and sisters, which was conducted everywhere under a single slogan: "Everything for the front, everything for victory!"

Each of us is profoundly aware of his personal involvement in the party's great cause and his responsibility for strengthening the motherland's might -- this thought runs right through all the messages. Soviet people warmly approve the CPSU Central Committee's line, elaborated by the March (1985) Plenum, of improving the standard of organization in work and mobilizing all forces and reserves to ensure steady, dynamic socioeconomic development and accelerate the rate of our progress. They give assurances that they will do everything to successfully fulfill the party's plans.

GROWTH IN REAL INCOMES, SOCIAL BENEFITS ANALYZED

LD241703 Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 24 Apr 85

["A Key Policy Matter" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- TASS news analyst Petr Lidin writes:

The 27th Congress of the CPSU -- date of which, February 25, next year, was determined by yesterday's plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee -- will sum up the results of a large amount of versatile work of the party and all people in implementing the plans for 1981-1985. The country's social development programme, which was endorsed by the 26th Congress of the CPSU, is an important component of the plans. And although there is still time before the end of the five-year-plan period, one can say with confidence already now that the main points of the social programme have been translated into life.

Wages and salaries of various brackets of industrial and office workers grow in this country from year to year on a planned basis and within the planned periods of time. The remuneration of the work of peasants who are united in agricultural cooperatives continously rises. The growth of money incomes takes place in the USSR in the conditions of free education and medical service, with stable retail prices of staple foods and consumer goods, and with invariable and low rates of taxes, rent, etc.

This is what gives an opportunity to raise the real incomes of the country's population in a balanced way. In 1984, for example, real incomes went up by 3.3 per cent. Such an increment is also planned for this year.

However, the increase in incomes is far from being the only way of raising the people's well-being in this country. Over more than four years that have passed since the 26th congress of the CPSU, a whole number of measures have been taken in the USSR to increase state aid to many categories of population and first of all to families with children and to the elderly.

New lump-sum allowances have been introduced over the period. These are paid to mothers when a baby is born. Allowances to unmarried mothers have been raised considerably and a paid leave has been instituted for women to nurse babies until one year of age. Additional paid leaves have been instituted for mothers who have two or more children, etc. These and other benefits apply to millions of Soviet families.

Over the same period the minimum amounts of old-age pensions, disability pensions, and those connected with the loss of the breadwinner have been raised. Pension bonuses have been introduced for those who worked for a long time at one factory or an institution. World War Two veterans have been granted many new benefits.

The enumeration of socio-economic novelties could be continued. These also include a rise in the quality of state-built apartment houses in the USSR. Apartments in such houses are distributed free of charge and the rent does not exceed three per cent of an average family's budget. More than forty million people have been rehoused in this country in the past four years. The novelties also include cuts in retail prices of consumer goods (in recent years the prices were lowered seven times, counting out seasonal clearance sales). Last year alone, the consumers' benefit from price cuts amounted to an aggregated of 5,000 million roubles.

Now that one can already speak of success in the implementation of the 1981-1985 social programme, a thorough elaboration of a social programme with which the CPSU will come forward at its 27th congress is now in progress, as was said at the plenary meeting. One may have no doubt that this will be a large-scale and versatile programme because more than three quarters of national income earned through the people's labour are channelled into consumption in the Soviet Union. It was not fortuitous that Mikhail Gorbachev, in his speech at yesterday's plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, referred to the party's concern for the people's well-being as a key policy matter.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA VIEWS CADRE POLICY DEBATE

PM231545 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 85 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Checking Efficiency"; capitalized passages originally published in boldface]

[Text] It would perhaps be no exaggeration to number the current CPSU kraykom, obkom, gorkom, and raykom plenums among the most important political events in the country at the moment. They are being discussed and their materials, published in the press, are being keenly commented on not only in primary party organizations and labor collectives but also in conversations at home and in meetings with friends and acquaintances. This is no accident. After all, the plenums are examining the key question of the party's cadre policy -- a policy in which we are all interested. The question is WHO is going to take charge of the masses at local level, manage the very complex social processes, the development of the economy, and, ultimately, the improvement of everyone's life, and HOW they are going to do it.

We would not be wrong if we said that the current plenums mark the start of the party's extensive precongress REVIEW of cadres and CHECK on their efficiency. At any rate, this fact is persistently emphasized by keynote speakers and the comrades contributing to the debate. This is what gives the discussion its particular tone, depth, and acuteness.

Of course, each region has its own problems and peculiarities, and this has naturally been reflected in the course of the debates. However, Leninist criteria of assessment and Leninist party principles of the study, selection, placement, and education of cadres are unshakable and common to all. Undoubtedly, the activists are right when unanimously demanding their unswerving observance. There is another characteristic feature: Nearly everywhere cadre questions are being examined in conjunction with tasks of improving the style of party committees' work. This is natural, since there is a direct association: Cadres DETERMINE the style and the style EDUCATES the cadres. If there is a break in one link, the other is bound to be affected. A very convincing example of this was cited at the Rostov CPSU Obkom plenum.

In the past 18 months the Volgodonsk Party Gorkom has made more than 30 decisions connected with the economic activity of the "Volgodonskenergostroy" Trust, but the situation there has not improved one bit. Why? Clearly because, instead of educating people, the gorkom machinery has gotten bogged down in a mass of directives, meetings about the plan, and all manner of headquarters sessions. The finest intentions were swallowed up in a feverish hustle and bustle. Doesn't this account for the fact that the failure to fulfill the plans for commissioning housing and consumer facilities went "unnoticed?" The fact that in 1984 alone around 8,000 construction workers came to the trust, but over...10,000 people left? The reduction in the number of party members in the collective? In 2 years 614 new Communists appeared on the register, but 797 left! The gorkom and the trust primary organization failed when it came to ensuring state, labor, and party discipline at the construction site.

One is immediately reminded of Lenin's impassioned criticism of those who "keep on offering splendid advice and issuing instructions, but are ridiculously, ABSURDLY, disgracefully ham-handed and incapable of IMPLEMENTING the advice and instructions and organizing PRACTICAL SUPERVISION to ensure that words become deeds."

One might add: The obkom was ham-handed, too. It followed the gorkom in holding oblast headquarters' meetings and spawning its own instructions in the form of resolutions. The resolutions were rushed; they were often adopted without discussion and without consultation and, therefore, as the authors themselves cautiously admit, "were not authoritative."

Talking about the truly enormous cadre potential that has been created in the autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts of the RSFSR, the keynote and other speakers named with some pride the figures characterizing the high standard of political education and vocational training of party workers. At the same time, it is clear that neither the vocational nor the party political knowledge acquired in educational establishments is in itself a total guarantee of all the requisite leadership qualities. You have to be able to convert technical knowledge into concrete deeds and beliefs into action! Efficiency, competence, and the ability to command people's attention must be CONSISTENTLY INSTILLED on a day-to-day basis. Party committees must never forget this!

L. Kudryavtsev, director of synthetic rubber plant, shared some of his advanced experience at the Voronezh Obkom plenum. He noted that in the course of the 5-year plan 123 of the 193 candidates in the enterprise cadre reserve have been promoted. However, the trouble is that few examples of this kind of systematic approach have been cited. In fact, complaints about serious flaws in the organization of this important task are more common. In Rostov Oblast in 1981-1984 gorkoms and raykoms had to coopt 22 secretaries from outside, and further elections had to be held in 21 okrugs to choose new gorispolkom and rayispolkom chairmen, although these rayons appeared to have satisfactory "reserves."

Hasn't the hasty, questionnaire approach to the promotion of cadres in a number of cities and rayons in Kalinin, Perm, and many other oblasts caused enough damage! So party committee plenum participants, perfectly reasonably, are insisting on INCREASED LIABILITY for people who make invalid promotion recommendations and sometimes even depart from party principles.

It has long been known that publicity and broad democracy in the discussion of leader candidates and the principled assessment of their political, work, and moral qualities are the most reliable allies in the struggle against superficiality, protectionism, and formalism. Practice demonstrates this. For example, in preparing for its plenum the Tatar CPSU Obkom appealed to the republic's Communists and working people through local papers, asking for their views on improving the organization of work with leading cadres. Presumably it was no accident when Obkom First Secretary G. Usmanov, opening the party discussion, first thanked the comrades who responded eagerly to the obkom's appeal. The suggestions that had been sent in not only enriched the report but made the cadre situation clearer and made it possible to outline a clear-cut action program.

Of course, not even the most perfect system for selection and placing leading personnel can guarantee against errors. However, that the number of errors can be dramatically reduced is graphically demonstrated by the experience of the Stavropol and Krasnodar Kray Party Organizations, which practice open selection of cadres.

On the other hand, the party committees that continue to employ the tactics of "secret promotion" and "in camera" discussing of people who have committed offenses invariably make many mistakes.

A special mention must be made of the fact that absolutely all the party committee plenums have made high demands on the moral complexion of leaders. The sole conclusion is that one must be more resolute and consistent in eliminating abuses, acquisitiveness [khozyaystvennoye obrastaniye], and conceit.

Particularly valuable is the fact that in most cases Communists do not confine themselves to exposing shortcomings in cadre policy but also suggest ways of eliminating them. They include the all-around development of criticism and self-criticism, the improvement of supervision, and increased responsibility for the job. It is proposed that accountability reports by leaders to party organizations and labor collectives become normal practice everywhere. "It must not be done as a mere formality," Z. Kolesnichenko, worker at the "40 Let Oktyabrya" Sovkhoz, for example, stressed. "But there are still cases where a leader will report on his collective's achievements and about the shortcomings, and talk about anything you like except his own PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION and his own PERSONAL SHORTCOMINGS. But how can you judge him without that? How can you warn him?"

The party committee plenums in Ryazan, Orel, Perm, and other oblasts were anxious about continuing efforts to save personnel from having to answer for offenses and about the continuing practice of moving people who have made a mess of a job or done something disreputable from one leading post to another.

The plenums are devoting a great deal of attention to leader education, professional training, retraining, and probationary training. In cadre policy nothing is trivial.

At the recent meeting with leaders of industrial and agricultural enterprises and production teams, specialists, and scientists CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev stressed: "We must resolutely increase cadres' responsibility, organization, and discipline." Party committee plenums are supposed to contribute comprehensively first and foremost to increasing the responsibility and efficiency of every leader and increase his role in the implementation of the plans for 1985 and 5-year plan as a whole and in the communist education of working people. Judging by newspaper correspondents' reports, at the vast majority of them the debate has been conducted from positions of party principle: frank, keen, and constructive. However, it must also be said that there is still evidence of inertia in some places.

As has already been reported in the paper, there was a lack of criticism from below at Ryazan, Vladimir, and some other obkom plenums, where the people contributing to the debate were sometimes happy to confine themselves to general observations and condemnation of negative phenomena overall. Not everywhere were the tone of exactingness and the analytical mood set by the keynote speakers properly maintained. Yet the shortcomings must be eliminated everywhere. As the CPSU Central Committee March (1985) Plenum pointed out, what is needed now is intensive creative work by all party organizations FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. Party committees have to ensure the conditions for this primarily by means of thoughtful selection and correct placement of cadres.

MOSCOW MEETING DISCUSSES YOUTH'S LEGAL EDUCATION

PM231409 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 85 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Legal Knowledge for Young People"]

[Text] Ways of further improving the legal instruction and education of young pupils and students in the light of the basic guidelines of the reform of the general educational and vocational schools were examined at a session of the USSR Ministry of Justice Interdepartmental Coordination and Methodological Council for Legal Propaganda. It was held in Moscow or 18 April.

Special attention was paid to the need to create in general educational schools, vocational and technical colleges, tekhnikums and VUZES a harmonious system of legal education for pupils and students and to fundamentally improve the teaching of the legal disciplines. The importance was indicated of further strengthening the link between preventive legal education work and the practical task of molding in young men and women the internal need to live and act on the basis of the principles of communist morality and unconditionally observe the rules of socialist communal living and Soviet laws.

'LENIN READINGS' VIEW DEFENSE OF SOCIALISM

PM230927 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Apr First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "The Source of Our Victories"]

[Text] The Leninist ideas of the defense of the socialist fatherland, Soviet patriotism, proletarian socialist internationalism, and the Soviet people's glorious combat and labor traditions are, in the present situation too, a source of our motherland's strength and might and a most important condition of the struggle for peace and the peoples' security. This was emphasized at the Lenin readings held at the CPSU Central Committee Marxism-Leninism Institute in Moscow on 19 April. They were devoted to the 115th anniversary of the leader's birth.

P.A. Rodionov, first deputy director of the Marxism-Leninism Institute, who opened the readings, and other speakers noted that the teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland occupies an imortant place in Marxist-Leninist theory. The military program of the proletarian revolution, the birth of the Soviet Armed Forces, and their heroic history are inseparably linked with V.I. Lenin's name. The Leninist ideas of the defense of the gains of socialism played a decisive role in the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, and they have lost none of their vitality even today. Guided by them and developing them creatively, the CPSU devotes paramount attention to the strengthening of the Soviet state's economic and defense might and to the struggle for peace and social progress.

The readings were attended by senior CPSU Central Committee officials, scientists, and representatives of the capital's public.

RUSAKOV, OTHERS SIGN FORMER OFFICIAL'S OBITUARY

PM231231 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 6

[Excerpts] Yevgeniy Ivanovich Bararin, former senior official of the Foreign Trade Ministry, CPSU member since 1930, and individual union pensioner, died 14 April 1985 in his 79th year.

K.V. Rusakov, I.V. Arkhipov, N.K. Baybakov, N.S. Patolichev, S.V. Chervonenko, M.A. Sergeychik, Yu.L. Brezhnev, G.K. Zhuravlev, N.D. Komarov, V.N. Burmistrov, I.T. Grishin, L.I. Zorin, V.M. Ivanov, A.N. Manzhulo, V.L. Malkevich, N.G. Osipov, N.N. Smelyakov, V.N. Sushkov, M.G. Loshakov, V.I. Klochek, S.V. Ozmidov, O.V. Yermolov.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS KIEV LENIN DAY MEETING

AU220900 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0230 GMT 20 Apr 85

[Text] The immortal name of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, great thinker, revolutionary, and founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, has become the symbol of the world's revolutionary renovation. Vladimir Ilich's ideas are triumphant in the great accomplishments of the Soviet people.

On the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, a solemn meeting of representatives of the working people of Kiev City and Oblast and of the troops of Kiev Garrison was held on 19 April. Presiding over the meeting were Comrades Shcherbitskiy, Yelchenko, Kachalovskiy, Kachura, Lyashko, Mozgovoy, Sologub, Titarenko, Shevchenko, Kapto, Kolomiyets, Kryuchkov, Mukha, Pogrebnyak; members of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers; members of Kiev Gorkom and Obkom Bureaus; prominent people of the republic's capital city; and representatives of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The solemn meeting was opened by Yelchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Kiev Gorkom first secretary. The melodies of the state anthems of the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian SSR majestically resounded in the hall. The meeting participants elected with great enthusiasm the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, to the honorary presidium. A report, "Loyalty to the Great Cause of Lenin," was delivered by Kolomiyets, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and Ukrainian Council of Ministers first deputy chairman.

The solemn meeting was declared closed and the participants sang the party anthem, the Internationale.

On 19 April thousands of Kiev City inhabitants and visitors gathered at the monument to the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state. At 1245, Ukrainian Communist Party and Government leaders laid flowers at the pedestal of the monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin. The red ribbon winding around the flowers bore the inscription. "To the Great Leader and Teacher of the Working People, Vladimir Ilich Lenin, from the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers." The melodies of the song, "Lenin Is Alive Forever," and of the party anthem, the Internationale, rose over the city's central street, Kreshchatik.

Flowers at monuments to Lenin were also laid in all the republic's oblast centers, cities, and villages. The honor guard at the monuments to the leader of the revolution was mounted by party veterans, Komsomols, and young pioneers.

TYUMEN OBKOM CRITICIZED FOR CADRE POLICY

PM231001 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 20 Apr 85 First Edition p 2

[Special correspondents I. Ognev and V. Shilov report: "Criterion of Exactingness. Notes From the Tyumen Party Obkom Plenum"]

[Excerpts] The creation of the West Siberian petroleum and gas complex can without exaggeration be described as one of the most ambitious economic and social achievements in the last 2 decades.

The development of the most important fuel and energy sectors is the main party commandment for Tyumen Communists. Over a 4-year period the ranks of Communists in the petroleum industry have increased by 60 percent, in the gas industry by 82 percent, in the construction industry by 55 percent, and in power industry enterprises by 90 percent. It would seem that the mobilizing influence of party organizations had been considerably enhanced. However, in fact, over the same period, stoppages have become more frequent in the work of many links and the oblast has been failing to cope with its petroleum extraction targets -- which restricts the country's fuel and energy potential. An in-depth analysis has revealed serious shortcomings in the opening up of the West Siberian petroleum and gas complex and disclosed a certain amount of shortsightedness in management. The Main Administration for Petroleum and Gas for the Tyumen Region and its subdivisions were not fully prepared for the new and more complex stage of work, when the oil gushers become fewer and oil extraction becomes more difficult. Having become used to years of successes, the central and local departments wasted time in transferring oilfields to the mechanized method of extraction. Such lack of foresight has cost the national economy dearly.

Local party organizations share the responsibility with the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry for the lag that has been allowed to occur. The CPSU Central Committee has noted serious shortcomings in the party leadership exercised by Tyumen Obkom and the party okrug, city, and rayon committees in the development of the petroleum and gas complex. An exacting serious discussion on how to overcome the lag and make up the omissions took place at an obkom plenum held 2 months ago. It was declared from the plenum rostrum that the oblast party organization, by improving its organizational and political work, would ensure faster growth of the petroleum and gas industry. What changes have occurred since then?

The state is allocating additional material and technical resources to the oblast and sending trained cadres there from other regions. Nonetheless, the petroleum extraction shortfall is actually increasing instead of being reduced. It was to be expected that this alarming fact would impart a special urgency to the discussion of tasks concerning the improvement of work with cadres in the light of CPSU Central Committee requirements at the Tyumen Party Obkom plenum held a few days ago. However, for some unknown reason the question of the causes of the petroleum sector's lagging was not duly reflected in the plenum report. Furthermore, and despite the actual results, it was noted that a trend toward improvement of the state of affairs is emerging, even though it is well known that so far there are no grounds for such optimism.

A certain amount of inconsistency was typical of some other propositions in the report. It was, for example, correctly noted that some party committees and economic organs still make attempts to gloss over and play down the extent of omissions and unhealthy phenomena and limit themselves only to criticism of individual facts, local shortcomings, or individual workers. Nevertheless, while criticizing such an approach and describing sharply and even harshly certain shortcomings in work with cadres, the speaker, strange as it may seem, also limited himself to simply mentioning that they are typical of "individual" or "some" party committees and soviet and economic organs.

Yet both the report and the speeches cited so many shortcomings and at times even errors that it is hardly justifiable to treat them as isolated cases. When criticizing the gorkoms and raykoms it would obviously be correct to admit that both the obkom Secretariat and Bureau have by no means always set an example in the implementation of cadre policy. Quite often inadequately trained, and at times simply immature people, inclined toward intrigues and abuses, have been appointed to high and responsible positions. Recently quite a few leading workers have been dismissed from office, expelled from the party, or had criminal proceedings instituted against them. They include E. Kivovich and G. Myasnikov, deputy chiefs of the largest main administrations; V. Maltsev, chief of the Construction and Installation Administration; and others. Haste in the selection of cadres causes turmoil in the work of many key subdivisions. For example, five chiefs have been replaced in the promising "Varyeganneft" Petroleum and Gas Extraction Administration in 4 years, and even the sixth, it was noted, is not wisely chosen. How is it possible to expect normal operations at the "Urengoygazzhilstroy" Trust, where 2 managers, 5 deputies, and 19 administration chiefs have been replaced in 3 and 1/2 years?

It would be incorrect to assume that liberalism or lack of exactingness exist in Tyumen Oblast toward leadership cadres. In just 1 year two-thirds of the leaders of petroleum and gas extraction administrations have received some kind of punishment. But can this be the main method of education? With such an approach, the rebukes and criticism, even when generously handed out, do not help improve matters. It is obvious that a different, a better considered and more effective system is needed as regards the education of and exactingness toward workers in all party organizations and economic links.

The positive experience of such an approach is now having its effect on the oblast's agricultural enterprises. A reserve of top leaders has been successfully trained in the oblast over the last 2 years. Strong economic managers have been posted as supervisors in potentially promising kolkhozes and sovkhozes, not just for a month, but for a whole year. Even within the apparatus of the party obkom itself, interesting experience of work with cadres is typical of, for example, the propaganda and agitation section. Nevertheless, as the speakers noted, the obkom's sectoral sections are in no hurry to adopt this experience.

Unfortunately, when delivering the report G.N. Bogomyakov, first secretary of the party obkom, basically restricted himself to just citing facts without presenting a specific and constructive program. The impression given is that the speaker's excessively categorical and didactic tone did not contribute to a lively debate. The majority of speakers erred on the side of self-justification.

A certain inconsistency in the party obkom's stance in work to improve cadre policy was displayed in the following episode. At the bureau's suggestion, the plenum relieved Ye.N. Altupin, obkom secretary in charge of petroleum and gas industry matters, and V.I. Yerofeyev, chief of the obkom party organizational section of their offices. The formula used was: "In connection with a transfer to other work," but those present were well aware that they were the leaders mainly responsible for shortcomings in cadre policy and the consequent lag in petroleum extraction.

We would like to hope that the Tyumen Obkom Secretariat and Bureau and the party aktiv will not rest content with the discussion that has taken place. Today more than ever, we need a realistic evaluation of achievements and elimination of obstacles which hinder progress. Success in the past is no ground for complacency. In work with cadres, it is important to comprehensively support, encourage, and promote those who display an honest and conscientious attitude to the performance of public duty not in words, but in deeds and by practical results.

PRAVDA VIEWS SOVIET RAILROAD DIFFICULTIES

PM191033 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 85 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Improving the Work of the Railroad"]

[Excerpt] Last winter -- A severe and snowy winter with blizzards and drifts -- complicated the situation on the majority of the country's railroads. Despite this, the Far Eastern, Transbaykal, and West Siberian railroads operated smoothly in December and the first quarter of this year. Yet the winter there was no less severe than in other places. The high degree of organization, a sense of responsibility for the plan, and strong labor and technological discipline helped to overcome the difficulties.

However, last winter also revealed serious omissions in preparing the railroad economy for work at a difficult time and brought to light gross blunders in the organization of transport operations and the servicing of equipment. Because of this, tens of millions of tons of freight less than planned was dispatched to customers in the first quarter. Particularly great failures in fulfilling the plan occurred on the Southeast, Gorkiy, Kuybyshev, and Donetsk railroads. As a result, customers did not receive a lot of fuel, metallurgical raw materials, timber, and other important freight by the prescribed time. Thus, in the first quarter the railroads gave enterprises of the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry 100,000 cars fewer than prescribed in the plan. Because of this, the dispatch target for timber products was fulfilled by only 80 percent. The timber cutters served by the Northern, Oktyabrskaya, and Krasnoyarsk railroads, in particular, found themselves in difficulties.

The arrears that have built up must be eliminated as quickly as possible. No railroad section must hope that the transportation plan will be amended or that the losses will be written off as due to last winter's "surprises." It is necessary to organize the uninterrupted movement of trains everywhere without delay, increase schedule speed, reduce each car's time en route, handle rolling stock efficiently at stations, and increase the number of through trains.

The efficiency of transport operations also depends on the efficiency of planning and on how economically substantiated are the economic ties established by material and technical supply organs. There are still many serious shortcomings here. Crosshauls of metal and of construction materials and structures of the same type still occur over many thousands of kilometers. Order must be imposed in this matter.

The large car pool is utilized inefficiently because of above-norm train idle time on the spur tracks of many plants and factories. This happens because, when building up the production capacities of plants in a number of sectors, proper attention is not devoted to developing, technically equipping, and improving the work of transport shops. This attitude to the matter is characteristic, for example, of the leaders of certain metallurgical plants.

The incomplete unloading of loose and liquid freight from cars and tanks disorganizes and complicates the transport process. As a result, much valuable raw material is lost, and a lot of money and work time is spent on cleaning out cars. It is necessary to investigate every such instance and call the guilty parties strictly to account.

The spring work which is under way in the fields sets railroad workers new tasks. Special attention must now be devoted to delivering seeds, fertilizers, agricultural machinery, spare parts, and fuel to rural workers.

Enterprises producing these products must receive well-repaired rolling stock on schedule -- which will make it possible to reduce freight losses en route. It is necessary to increase the weight and length of trains still more vigorously and dispatch freight by through trains. These are the biggest reserves in transport.

It is a matter for all party and soviet organs, trade unions, the Komsomol, and all sectors of the national economy to take railroad transport in hand. Helping railroad workers also means resolving long-term questions successfully: increasing deliveries of new locomotives, freight and passenger cars, track machines, and other equipment for servicing and repairing hardware. It is necessary, as specified in the 26th CPSU Congress decisions, to accelerate the construction of new lines and second tracks and more actively carry out the electrification of mainlines and the modernization of stations.

RYABOV ATTENDS INDUSTRIAL MODERNIZATION MEETING

PM230915 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 19 Apr 85 p 2

[Own correspondent V. Noskov report: "Planners' Tasks Discussed"]

[Text] Dzerzhinsk, Gorkiy Oblast -- A conference of workers of planning organizations of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production, the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, and the Main Administration of the Microbiological Industry has been held in the city of Dzerzhinsk in Gorkiy Oblast. They discussed the tasks facing planners in the light of the recently adopted USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Further Improving Planning and Costing Work and Enhancing the Role of Expert Assessment and Designer Supervision in Construction."

In accordance with the CPSU Central Committee March (1985) Plenum's demands a detailed analysis was made of planning and costing work in the aforementioned ministries and measures were determined to ensure the wide-scale introduction of scientific and technical achievements into production and the renewal of fixed assets on a qualitatively new technical basis, above all by rationalization and the retooling of existing enterprises.

Taking part in the conference's work were Ya.P. Ryabov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; V.G. Afonin, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Chemical Industry Department; Yu. N. Khristoradnov, first secretary of Gorkiy CPSU Obkom; V.I. Senenov, chairman of Gorkiy Oblispolkom; senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, economic leaders, and leading specialists of planning organization and industrial enterprises.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSION VIEWS WASTE RECYCLING

PM221123 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 20 Apr 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Concern for Nature"]

[Text] A routine session of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium Commission for Environmental Protection and the Rational Use of Natural Resources was held on 18 April.

The commission examined the question of the work of the USSR Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers and the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry to increase the amount of processing of industrial waste and to develop and introduce low-waste and waste-free technological processings.

It was noted that at enterprises of the aforementioned ministries this work is still being done unsatisfactorily; the accumulated wastes from the enterprises of both sectors are taking up larger areas of land and are an additional source of environmental pollution.

The USSR Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers and the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry were instructed, in particular, to develop with the USSR Gosplan and interested ministries and departments the implementation in the 12th 5-Year Plan of specific measures to sharply increase the amount of processing and deliveries to consumers of production waste formed at departmental enterprises, envisaging the creation of relevent capacities and the allocation of the capital investment required for these purposes.

A report was heard from the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry on measures to meet legislative requirements on mines with regard to the fullest extraction and most rational use of useful minerals during extraction and processing.

The measures being taken by the Ministry of the Coal Industry with regard to the aforementioned question have made it possible to ensure fuller extraction of solid fuel reserves during mining operations. At the same time in the underground exploitation of deposits large quantities of coal and oil shale are extracted using obsolete systems and low-efficiency equipment and are accompanied by considerable losses of useful minerals.

The Ministry of the Coal Industry has been instructed, in particular, to ensure the implementation, with the participation of interested ministries and departments, of measures aimed at accelerating the achievement of optimum efficiency in coal and oil shale extraction and enrichment and also at considerably expanding the use in the national economy of useful minerals and mining waste produced as by-products in the sector.

The question of the technical standard of the industrial equipment, instruments, and materials produced for sewage treatment and the efficiency of the use of these means was also examined. The Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, the Ministry of Power Machine Building, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the RSFSR and Ukrainian SSR Ministries of Housing and Municipal Services, and other ministries and departments were instructed to take measures to improve the quality of the equipment, instruments, and materials produced by enterprises under their departmental jurisdiction for the treatment of natural water and sewage, taking account of the specific conditions of their use, raising their technical standards, and expanding their product ranges.

The USSR Gosplan, the State Committee for Science and Technology, and the USSR Gosstroy together with interested ministries and departments were instructed to determine the leading ministries for the production of water purification equipment and establish for each of them a range of equipment suitable for development and production.

SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES HIT FOOD PROGRAM 'LAG'

PM240921 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 85 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Enhancing Production Efficiency"]

[Text] On 22 April a joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Agro-Industrial Complex Commissions in the Kremlin discussed how the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry is fulfilling state plan targets for improved utilization of agricultural raw materials, reduction of losses, and the introduction of waste-free technologies.

Ye. I. Sizenko, USSR minister of the meat and dairy industry and Kh.T. Veldi, head of a deputies' joint preparatory commission, noted in their reports, and deputies noted in their speeches, that in accordance with the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and the food program targets the ministry and associations and enterprises under its jurisdiction have carried out a certain amount of work to ensure the rational and economic utilization of raw materials and reduction of losses.

As a result of increased production and purchases of livestock products during the past 2 years, the provision of the sector with raw materials has improved. Plan targets for the production of meat, animal fats, cheese, and other products, and also for output sales, labor productivity growth, and lower prime costs have been met. Resource-saving technologies and the production of new types of products containing various useful fillers and vitamins have been mastered. Deliveries to agriculture of substitutes for unskimmed milk and dried animal feeds have been increased.

At the same time it was stressed at the session that the ministry is not doing enough to mobilize existing reserves and potential for the implementation of the food program tasks in increasing the output and improving the quality and range of products. Directive organs' decisions and plan targets for the improved utilization of raw material resources, reduction of losses, and introduction of low-waste and waste-free technologies have not been fully implemented. Proper attention is not being paid to the timely revision and introduction of progressive norms and normatives. Work to improve the range and quality of meat and dairy products, enhance their flavor and nutritive value, and increase the proportion of these products produced in convenient sizes and packaging is inadequate. The technical standard of a number of production facilities does not ensure a sufficiently thorough processing of livestock, poultry, and milk. Allocated capital investments are not assimilated in the sector.

It was also noted that the sector's staff, production associations, and enterprises are not collaborating well enough with local soviets and agro-industrial complex partners in balancing state production plans with raw material resources, enhancing the quality and reducing losses of raw materials, utilizing specialized motor transport effectively, establishing production capacities on a cooperative basis together with kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and improving the social and living conditions of industrial workers.

The sector's management structure, the economic machinery of associations and enterprises, and the system of material incentives to workers for enhancing the comprehensive utilization of raw materials need to be further improved.

The ministry must adopt a more exacting attitude to leaders of republic ministries, associations, and enterprises as regards the fulfillment of state plan targets, the accelerated introduction of the achievements of science and progressive experience, and the effective utilization of existing production potential.

The commission's decision advises the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and other ministries and departments concerned to eliminate the shortcomings mentioned and adopt specific measures to overcome the lag that has been allowed to build up in the implementation of the food program.

The session was attended by I.P. Kalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; L.N. Tolkunov and A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

TASS CITIES CSA DATA ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

LD181027 Moscow TASS in English 0817 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 18 TASS -- The number of workers in Soviet agriculture has dropped by almost three per cent over the past decade. The average annual number of workers in agriculture now is not more than 23 million out of the almost 129 million gainfully employed people. A TASS correspondent has learned these figures at the USSR Central Statistical Board.

Meanwhile, the average annual output has grown 18 per cent over the past four years as compared with the period from 1971 to 1975. The whole increase in gross output in the industry has been ensured through an increase in labour productivity. The average annual rate of increase in the output has reached 21 per cent, which is above all a result of the policy of intensification of production pursued by the Soviet state.

Every agricultural enterprise receives now almost three times as much funds as twenty years ago. The qualitatively new farm equipment makes it possible to ensure a considerable increase in the rate of mechanisation and automation of labour. Thus, main field work, in particular, grain crop cultivation, has already been completely mechanised.

Agricultural production in the USSR grows faster than the country's population. As a result, the per capita consumption of meat has increased five per cent, eggs -- 19 per cent, butter -- 17 per cent, vegetables and fruit -- almost 16 per cent over the past decade.

STOCKHOLM REPORTS SOVIET UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS

LD251028 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Early this morning the Soviet Union exploded a powerful nuclear charge in the Semipalatinsk area, the Upsala University Seismological Department reports. The magnitude of the explosion was measured at 6.7 on the Richter scale. Earlier this year a similar explosion was traced to the Semipalatinsk area in eastern Kazakhstan, according to the Seismological Department.

COMMUNICIATIONS OFFICIAL ON SATELLITE DEVELOPMENTS

LD222105 Moscow TASS in English 2044 GMT 22 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS -- Virtually the entire population of the Soviet Union -- 98 per cent -- will soon be able to watch programmes on two television channels, Yuriy Zubarev, deputy minister of communications of the USSR, has told a TASS correspondent. This will be achieved through all-round development of ground-based and satellite communications facilities in the country.

Yuriy Zubarev recalled that the launching of the USSR's first communications satellite Molniya-1 on April 23 1965 laid groundwork for developing space communications. Thanks to that satellite, Vladivostok residents were able to watch a May Day parade in Moscow's Red Square.

18 months after that, twenty ground-based Orbita stations were already in operation. They ensured the transmission of Central Television programmes to regions in the extreme north, far east and Siberia -- that was the world's first national satellite television network.

At present, the deputy minister stressed, the Ekran network alone comprises more than 3,000 ground-based stations, while the Moskva system includes 300 stations. Combined with the Orbita satellite communications system and land-based retransmission lines, they ensure the transmission of Central Television programmes all over the Soviet Union in five sessions, at a convenient time for viewers.

Zubarev pointed out that the volume of television and radio broadcasting via satellites -- two central television programmes and radio broadcasting -- exceeds 130 hours a day. The deputy minister stressed that relay satellites help establish communication with any point on Soviet territory. This peculiarity of space communication makes it indispensable in complex geographical conditions when construction of traditional ground lines is hard to carry out due to vast water expanses and high mountains.

Yuriy Zubarev noted that communications satellites are used for a variety of purposes, including trasmission of images of central newspapers to printworks all over the country, which considerably enhances their delivery to subscribers. They also ensure telephone links between cities and populated localities of the Soviet Union. Originally, the Orbita system was devised as a network for transmitting Central Television programmes, while at present, it is complemented with modern telephone equipment, being organically integrated into the USSR's united automatic communications system. Communications satellites of the next generation, Yuriy Zubarev said, will also be multifunctional. They will ensure transmission of television and radio programmes, newspaper images, and performance of telephone lines. These will be satellites of great capacity and high efficiency.